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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

WIN

BACK TO SCHOOL PRIZES!

MARVEL COMICS No.258 £1.20
3rd Sept. 1997
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Puzzles · Reading · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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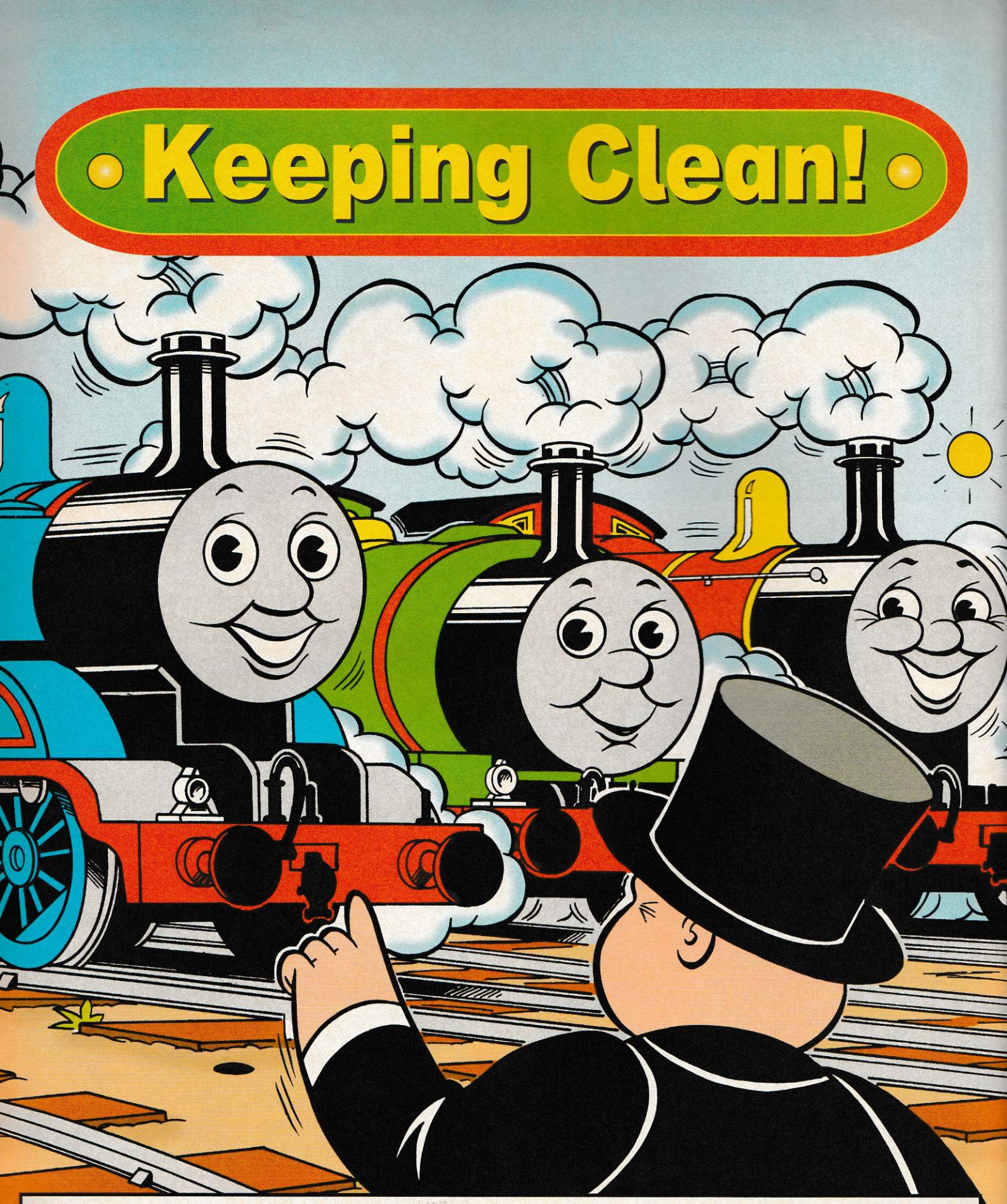
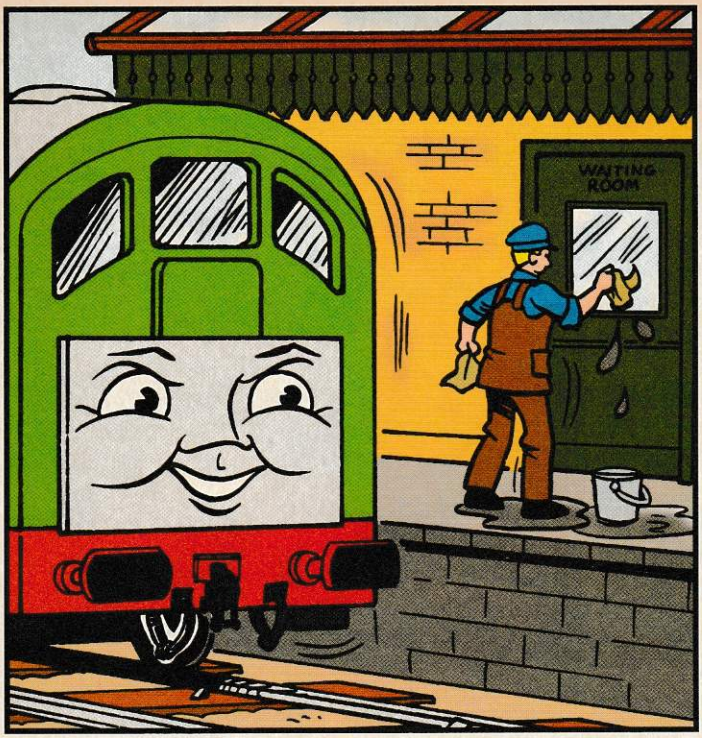
Keeping Clean!

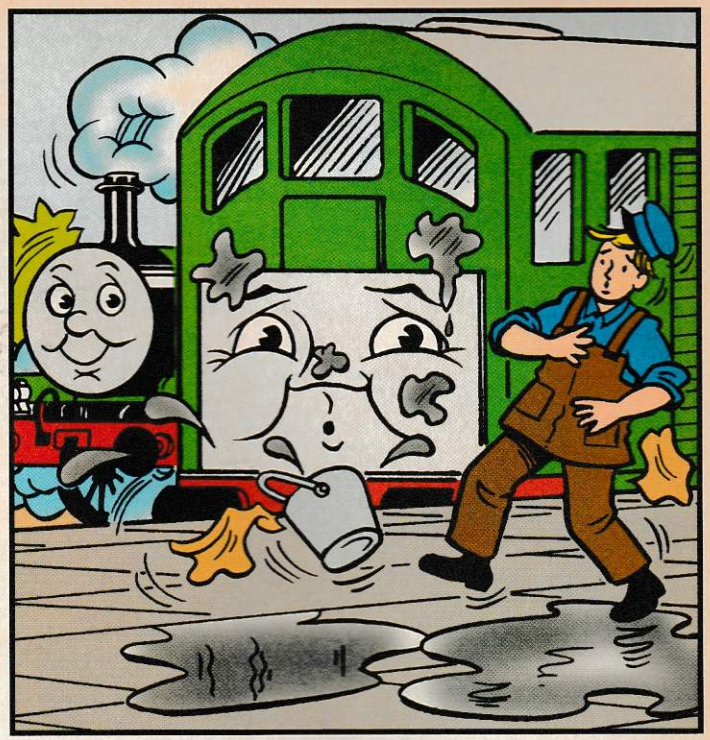


1. One morning, the Fat Controller came to see all the engines in the Main Station Yard before they began work. "Some of you don't always look smart and shiny," he frowned.

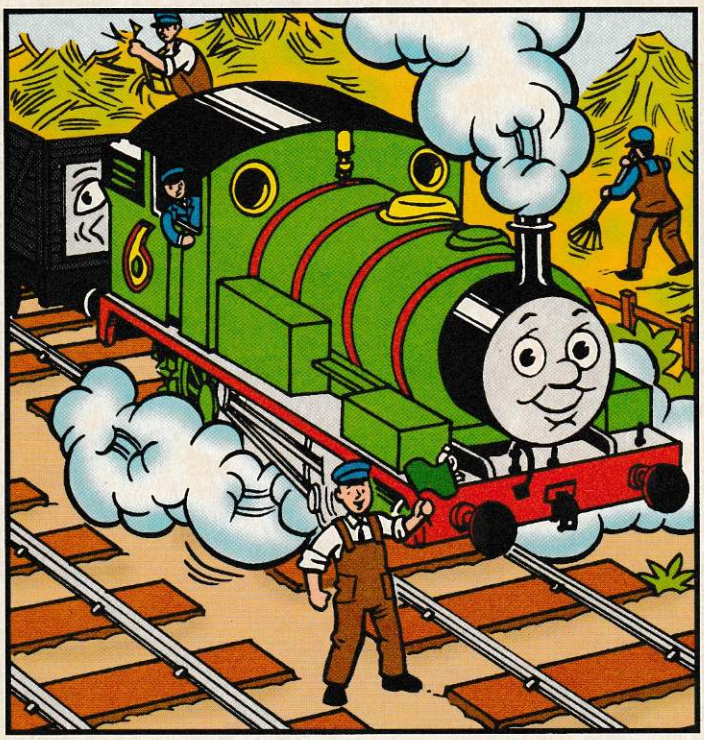
2. "Remember, Really Useful Engines are really clean ones," added the Fat Controller. "I want to see who can stay the cleanest." All the engines wanted to please him.



3. "It's sure to be a diesel, like me," said BoCo. "I don't burn smoky coal." BoCo pulled up beside the Main Station. A man was washing the waiting room windows.

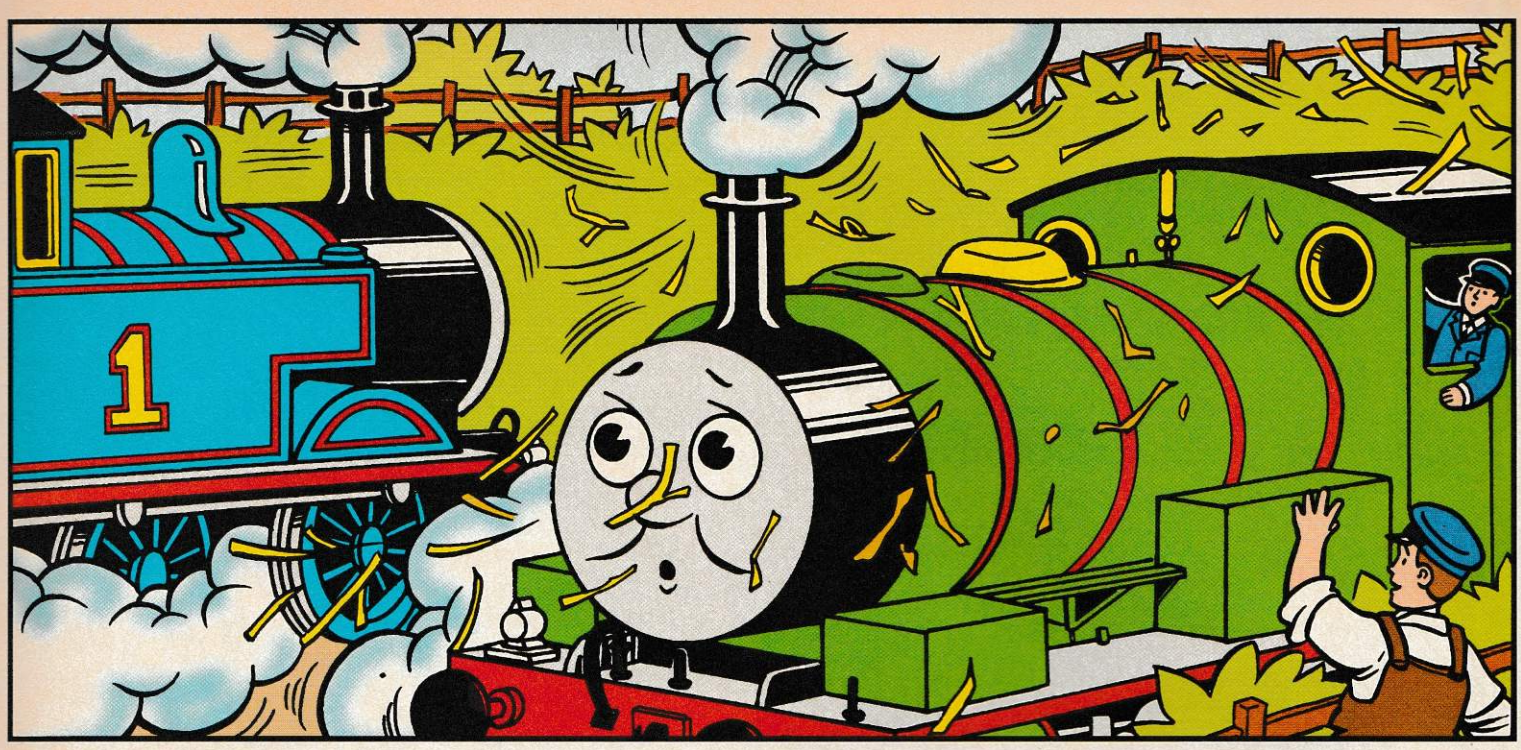


4. He had a large bucket of water. Suddenly, Percy mischievously rushed past him and whistled loudly. The man was surprised and slopped dirty water all over BoCo!



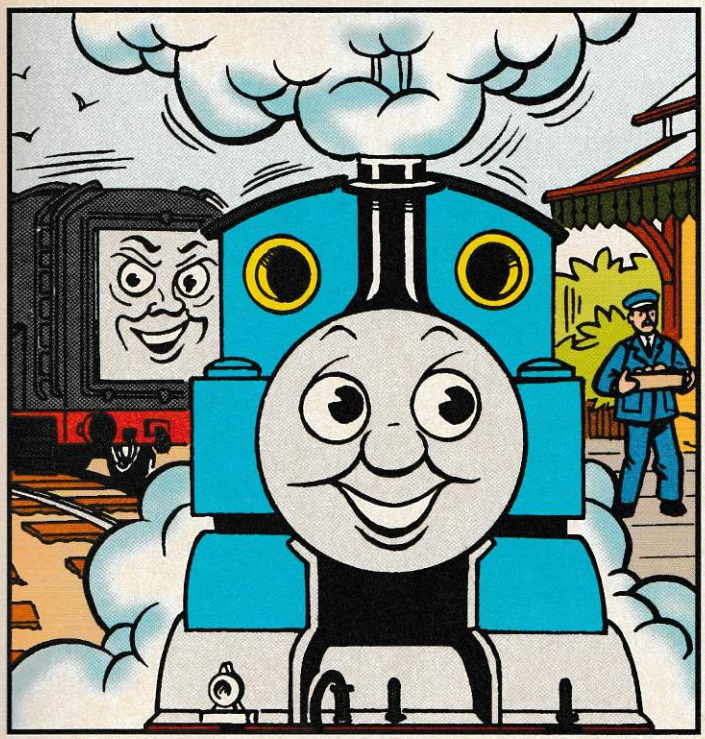
5. BoCo was very cross. "Tut! Now who's all steamed up!" teased Percy. Later, he took a works train full of workmen along the line. They had to cut long grass by the track.

6. The men loaded the grass into an open truck coupled to Percy. Soon it was overflowing. At that moment, Thomas approached on the other line. One man waved a warning flag.



7. All the men moved safely clear. "Come along, Thomas," shouted Percy. "You're holding up the work!" "Whatever you say," grinned Thomas. WHOOSH! He flew past.

8. The draught blew lots of grass from the open truck all over Percy. "You look like a scarecrow engine!" gasped his driver. "Pah! Thomas did that on purpose," grumbled Percy.



9. When Thomas delivered supplies to a farm, the farmer gave his driver a tray of fresh eggs. Back at the Main Station, he lifted them out of his cab. But Diesel was watching.

10. He rolled up behind Thomas and bumped his buffers. The startled driver dropped the eggs all over Thomas. "You don't eggsactly look smart now!" sneered Diesel, nastily.

11. All the engines misbehaved. The Scottish twins, Donald and Douglas, blew sooty smoke from their funnels over Duck. Then Duck went through a big oily puddle to splash the twins.

12. Oliver spilled sand over James who jogged Diesel at the oil pump. Oil gushed out over him and Henry and Daisy, who were nearby. Bill and Ben were covered in clay dust.

13. That evening, the engines lined up outside their shed for inspection. "What a sorry lot you look!" gasped the Fat Controller, in astonishment. "You are all really dirty engines!"

14. "You will all have to be cleaned tomorrow and then work late to make up time," he went on. "It serves us right for playing dirty tricks," sulked the engines!

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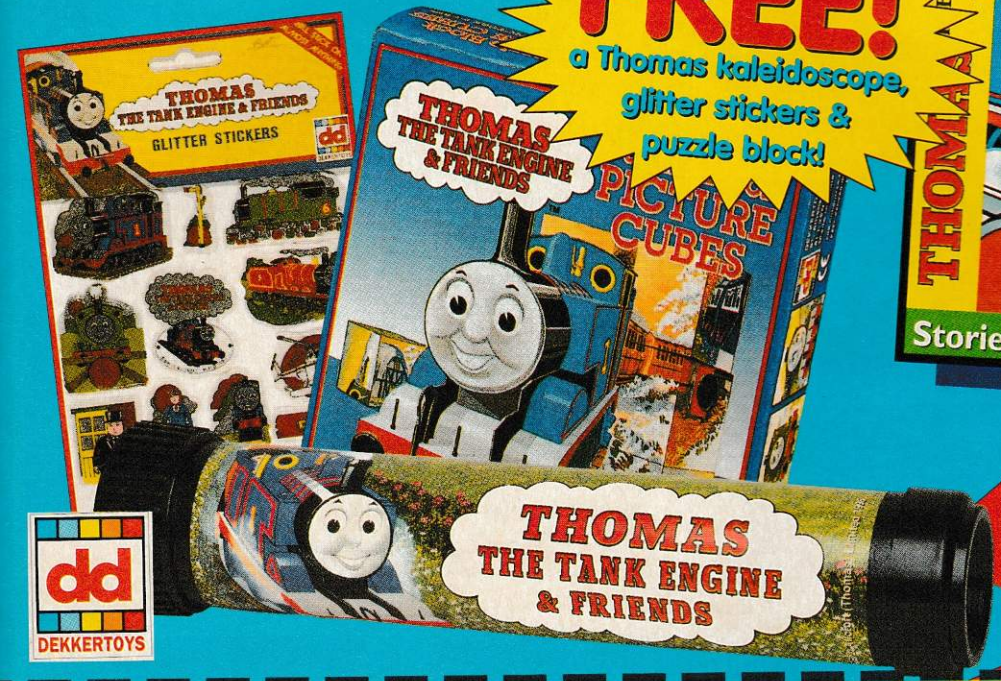

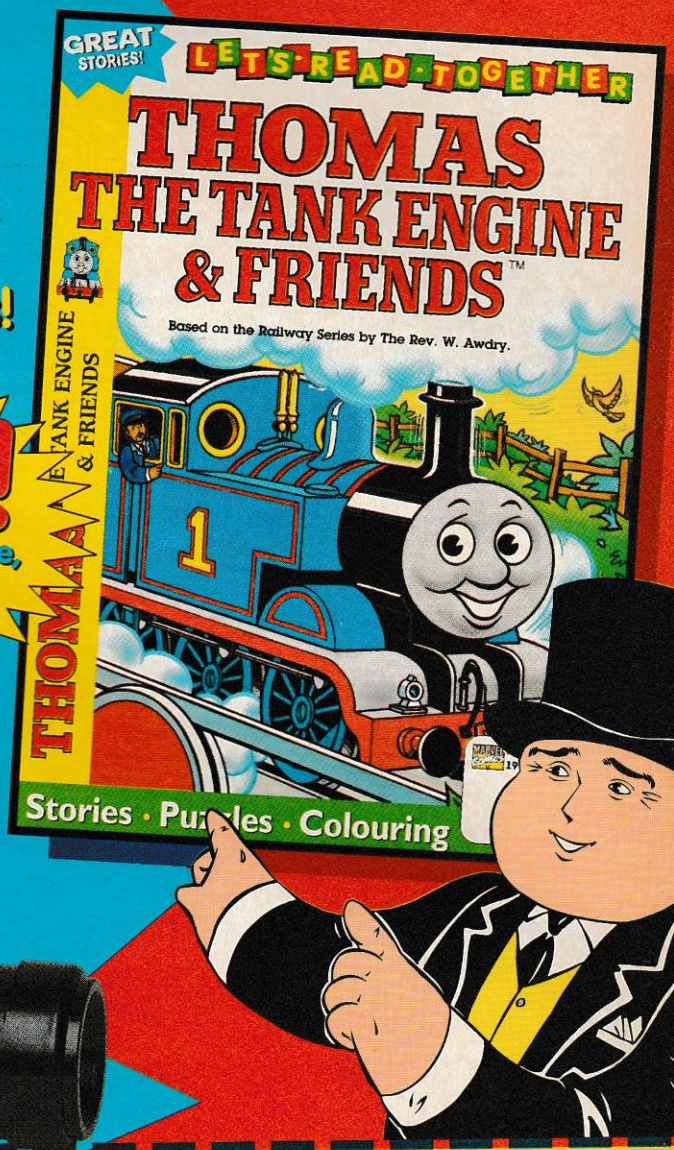

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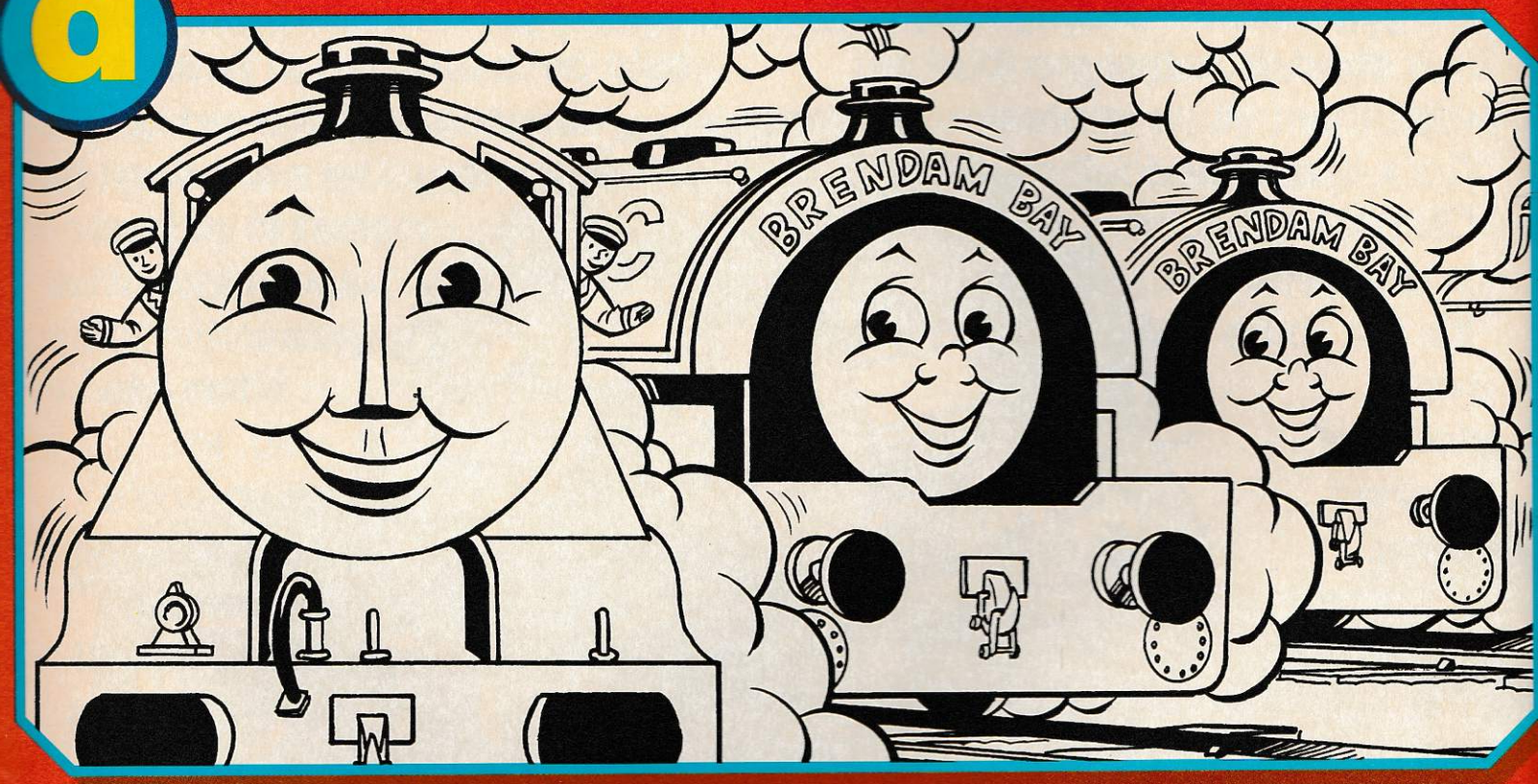
Spot the difference!

These two pages look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you spot the 5 changes?
When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

a



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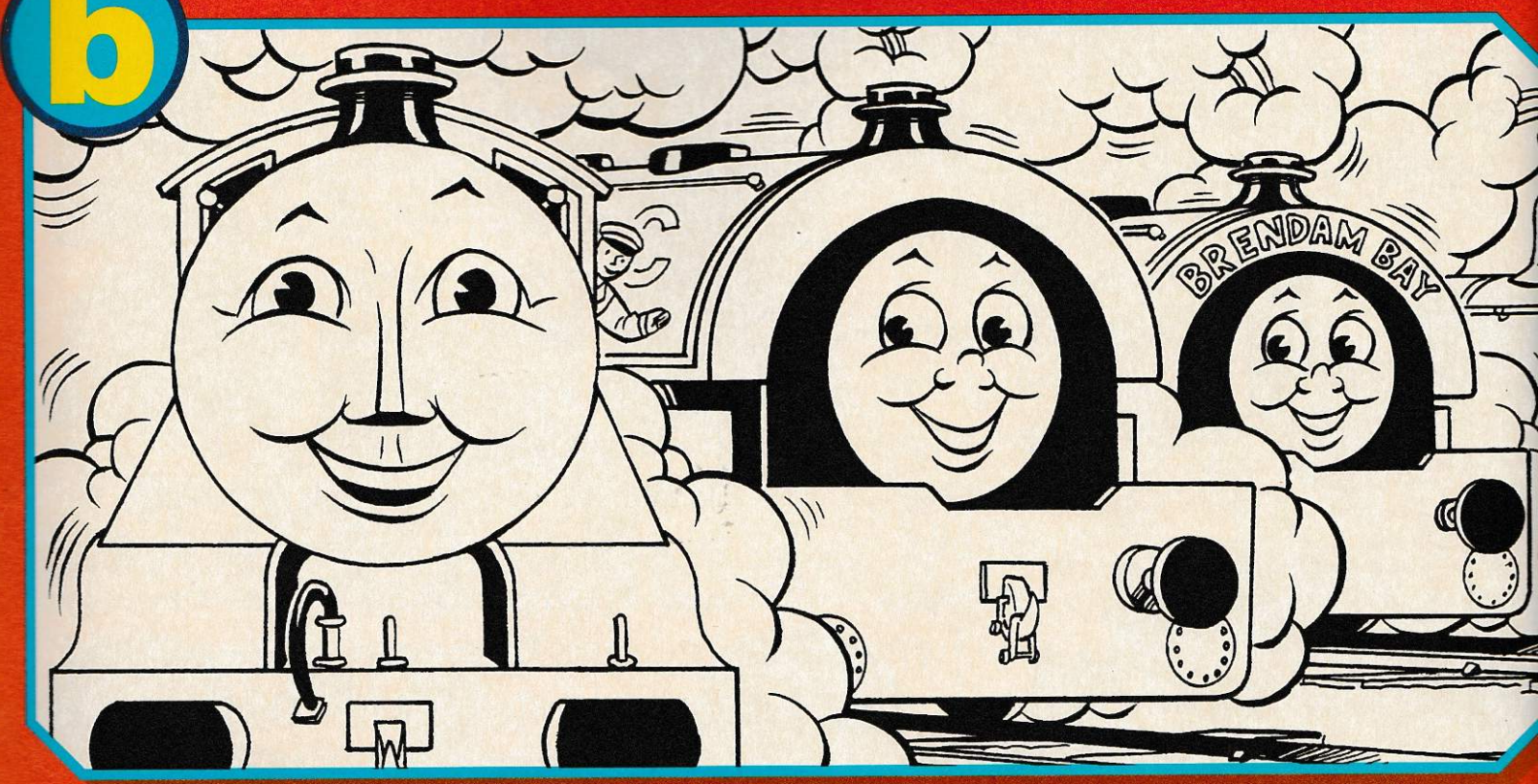
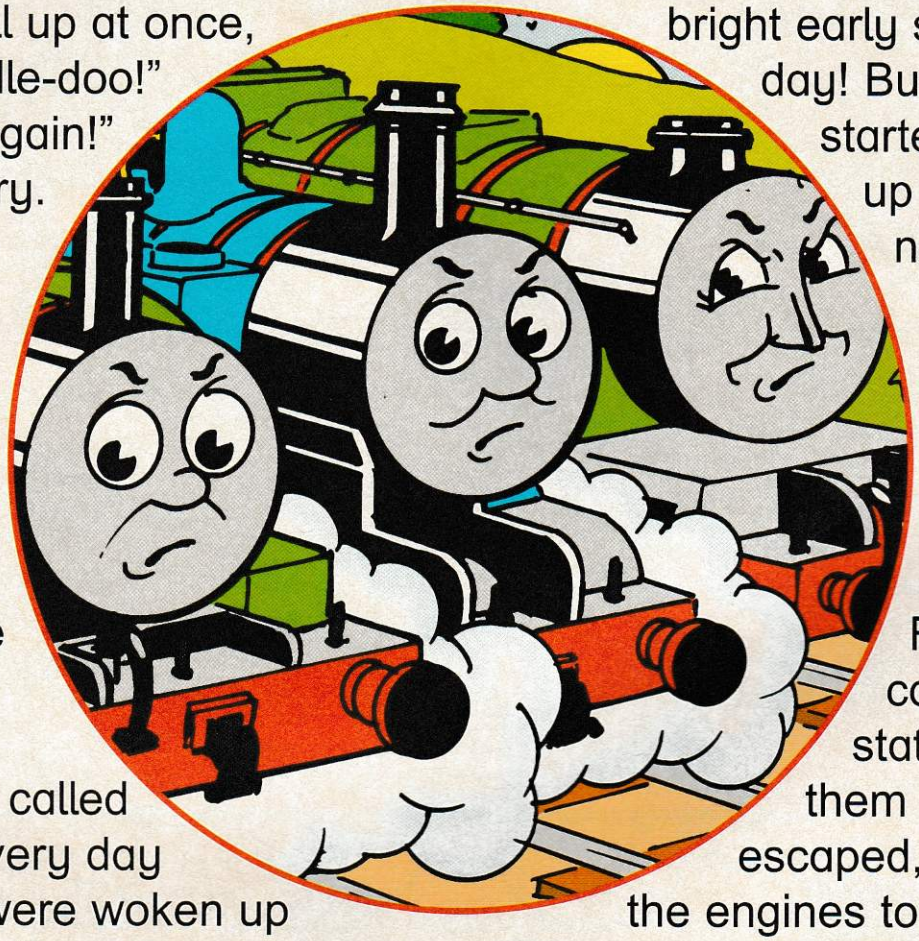


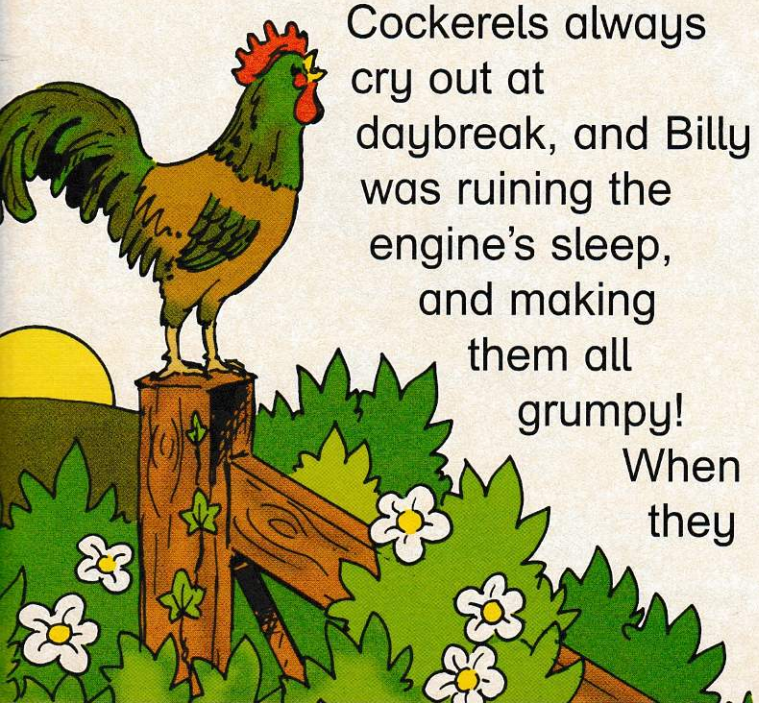
Answers: Gordon's driver - Gordon's lamp - Bill's lettering - Bill's buffer - Ben's coupling hook.

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

It was sunrise, and all the engines were sleeping happily in their shed. Suddenly, a loud cry woke them all up at once, "Cock-a-doodle-doo!" "Oh no, not again!" groaned Henry. "It's the same every morning!" moaned Percy.



Farmer Jones, who lived near the Main Station, had bought a new cockerel called Billy. Now, every day the engines were woken up by its ear-splitting crow.



Cockerels always cry out at daybreak, and Billy was ruining the engine's sleep, and making them all grumpy! When they begged the Fat Controller to do something, he laughed and said it would do them good to have a bright early start every day! But soon even he started to get fed up with the awful noise.

Then one day, to everyone's surprise, the cockerel disappeared! Farmer Jones came to the station and told them Billy had escaped, and asked the engines to keep an eye out for him. The engines promised to help, even though they were not sure they wanted the noisy bird to come back!

The next day, Thomas was puffing along his branch line, when he spotted Billy pecking happily among the weeds at an old, abandoned farm.

Later Thomas met Diesel, and he told him what he had found. "Shush! Keep it to yourself!" whispered Diesel. "We don't

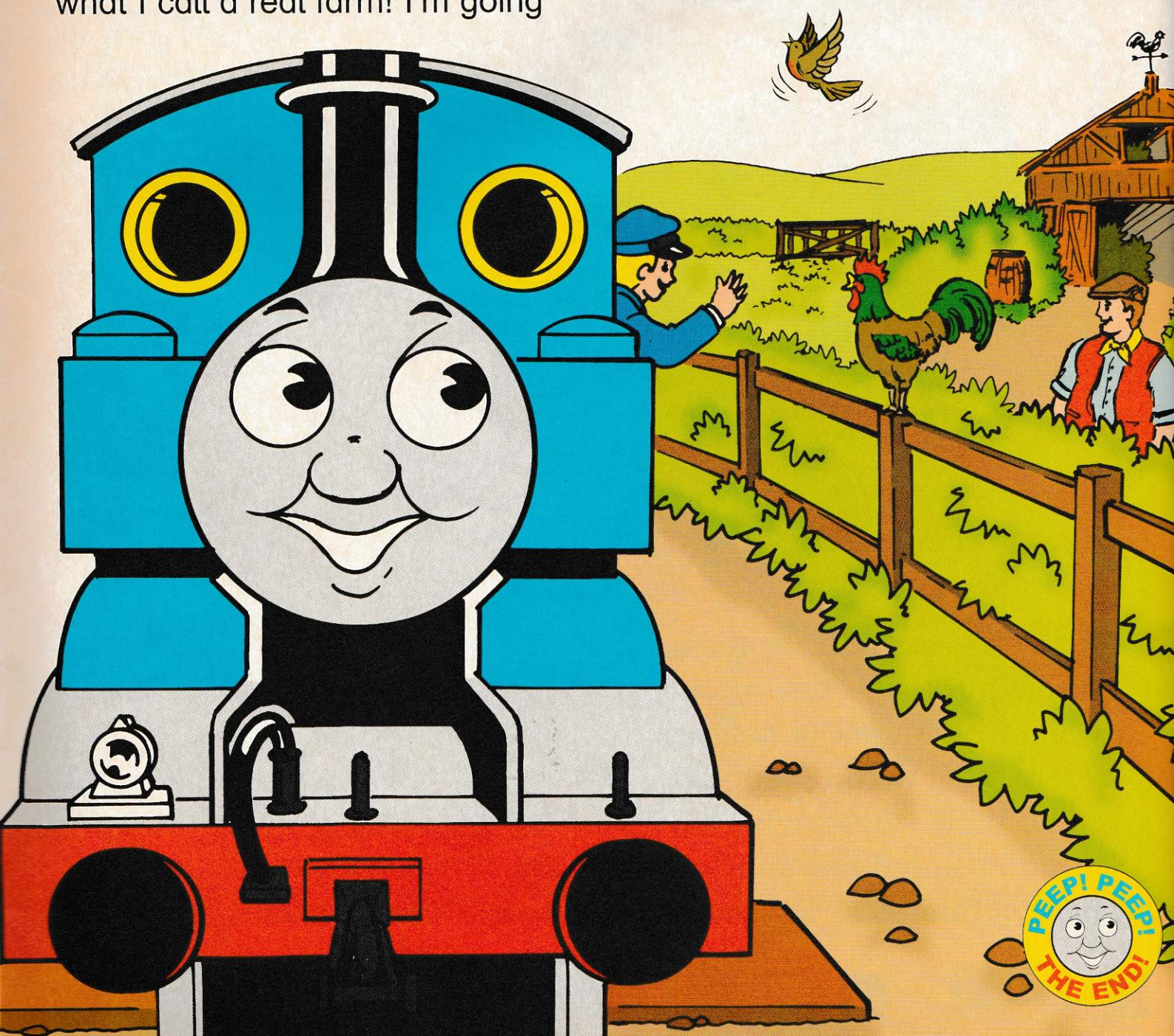
want that noisy 'cock-a-doodle-doo' every morning!"

But when Thomas saw Farmer Jones walking sadly around his fields later on, the good-hearted little engine couldn't help but tell him the news. He offered to take him to where he had seen Billy.

Farmer Jones was overjoyed to find his cockerel and also delighted to see the pretty old farm Billy had discovered to live in. "Do you know, Thomas," he said, rather excitedly. "This is what I call a real farm! I'm going to buy this place and move out here as soon as I can!"

And so, not long afterwards, Farmer Jones had a new home in the country. All the engines were pleased, because now the cockerel lived too far away to wake them up in the morning.

Now Thomas has become quite fond of the noisy bird, and gives a friendly 'peep-peep' whenever he passes by. Billy of course, replies with a cheerful 'cock-a-doodle-doo!'



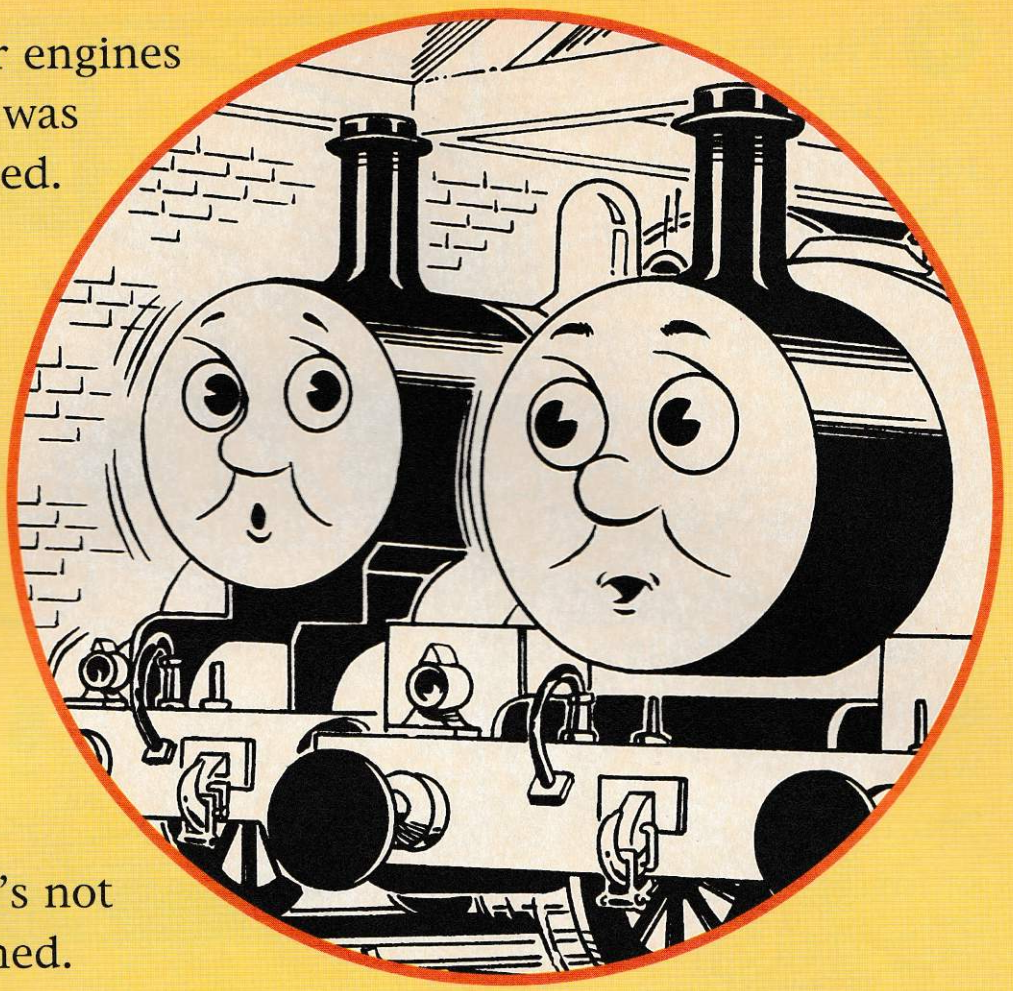
A read & colour story

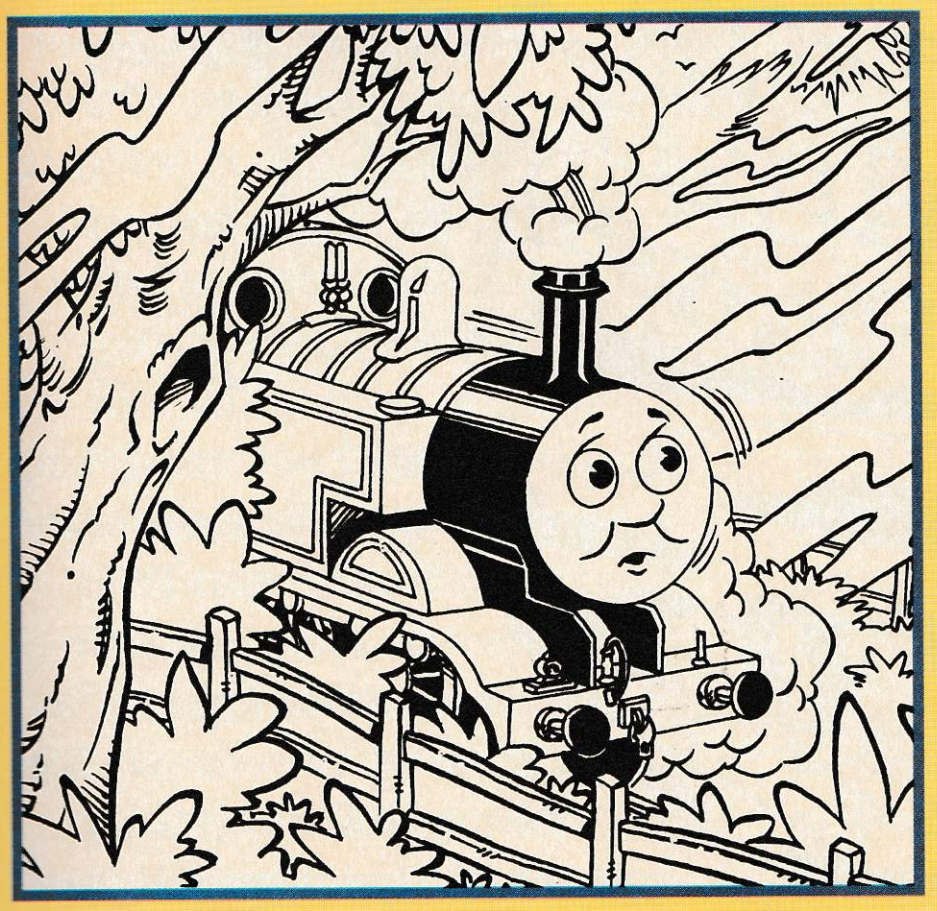
Percy's Monster!

1 Percy was puffing along through the hills one morning, when from far away he heard a terrifying wailing sound. He could hardly believe his ears! It didn't sound like an engine horn, a human or any animal!

"What on earth could it be?" he asked himself, as he rushed home in fright. He was very afraid. "The only thing it could be is a monster, living in the hills," he thought. He wanted to get back as soon as possible!

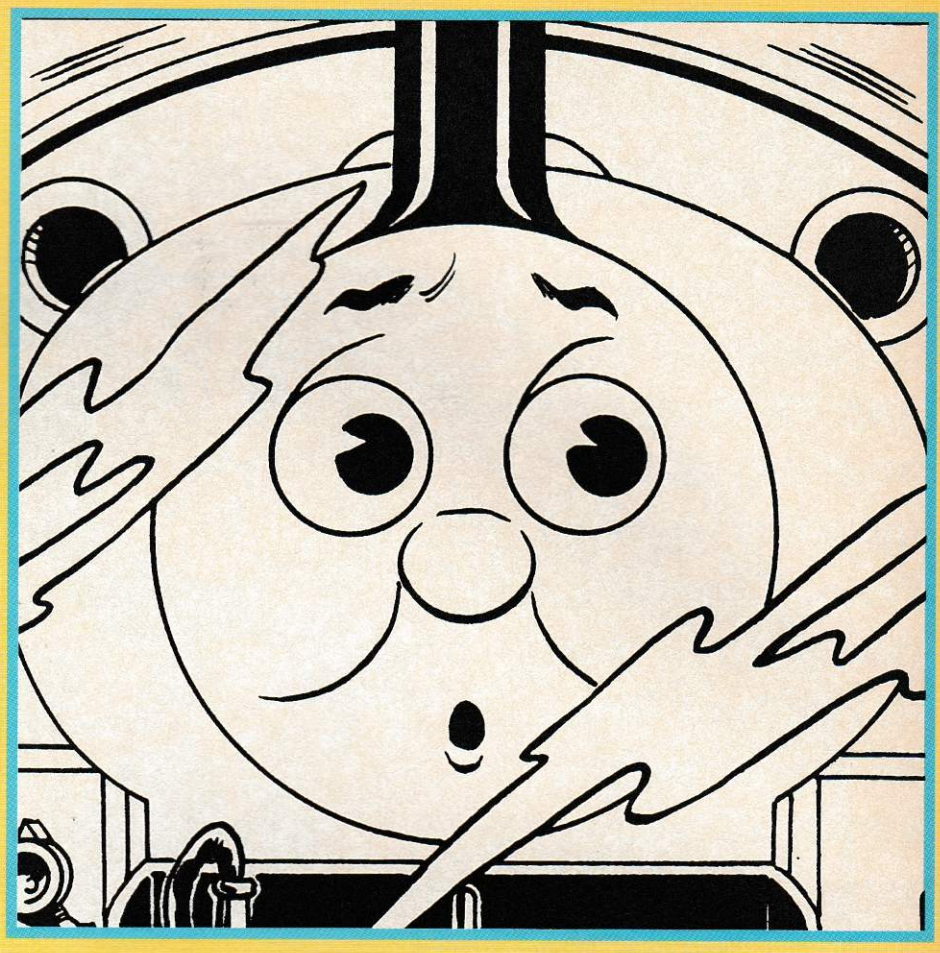
2 He told the other engines all about it when he was safely back in the shed. Even then he shivered when he remembered the wail. "It must have been a gigantic monster!" guessed Percy. Thomas was not so sure. "Stop it, Percy, we won't be able to sleep if you make up scary stories like that!" "It's not a *story*!" Percy moaned.

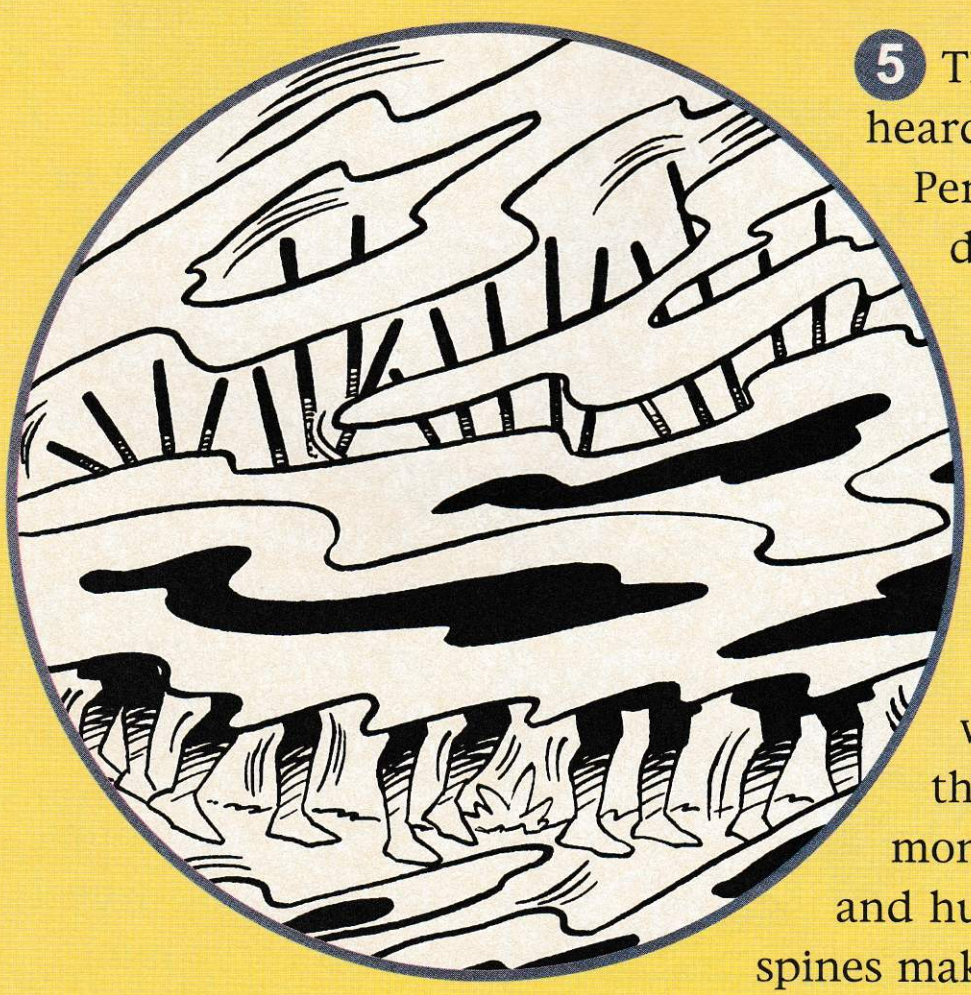




3 That evening, Thomas was up in the hills. Suddenly, he heard the same loud screeching wail that Percy had been talking about! "It must be Percy's monster!" Thomas quaked. "What's going on?" his driver cried as Thomas sped home, as fast as his wheels could carry him!

4 The next day it was just a little misty so Percy's driver said, "you'll have to go a bit more slowly today!" The poor engine was terrified. "Slowly?" he gasped. "With that great big monster roaming about!" His driver was puzzled, "monster, what monster?" he asked.





5 The Fat Controller had heard the rumours about Percy's monster so he decided to investigate. He climbed aboard Percy and off they went. When they were in the hills, they saw something quite extraordinary! "Look," said Percy, who felt safer with the Fat Controller, "a monster with twenty legs and hundreds of prickly spines making a horrible noise!"

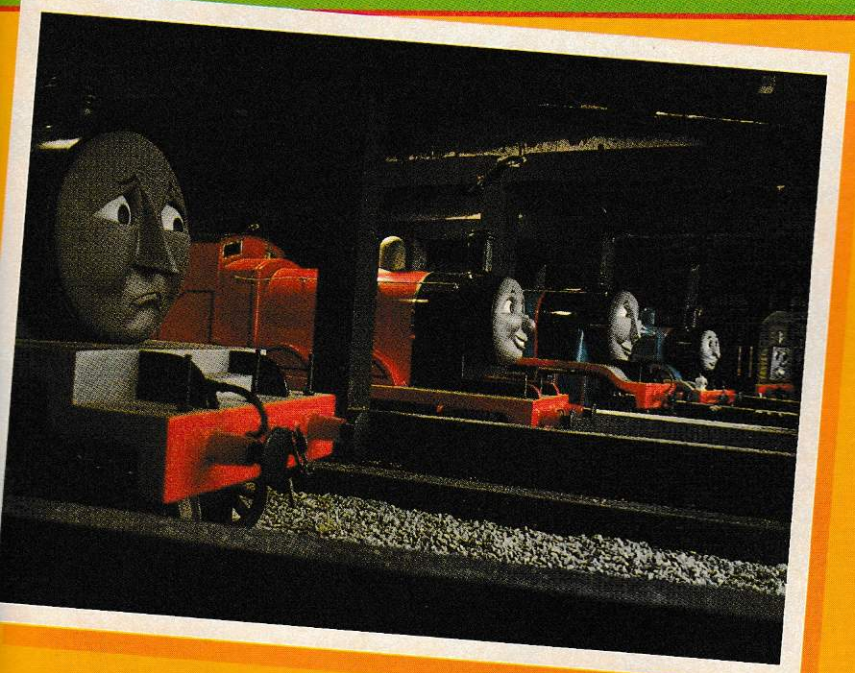
6 The Fat Controller laughed. And can you guess what came out of the mist? It was a band of Scotsmen, playing the bagpipes! "Oh, how silly I've been!" sighed poor Percy. The pipers explained that they were practising marching and playing together, for a competition to be held in Knapford. Percy was happy to meet his 'monster' and found he rather liked bagpipe music, now that he knew it wasn't a monster wailing!

The end

Henry's Forest

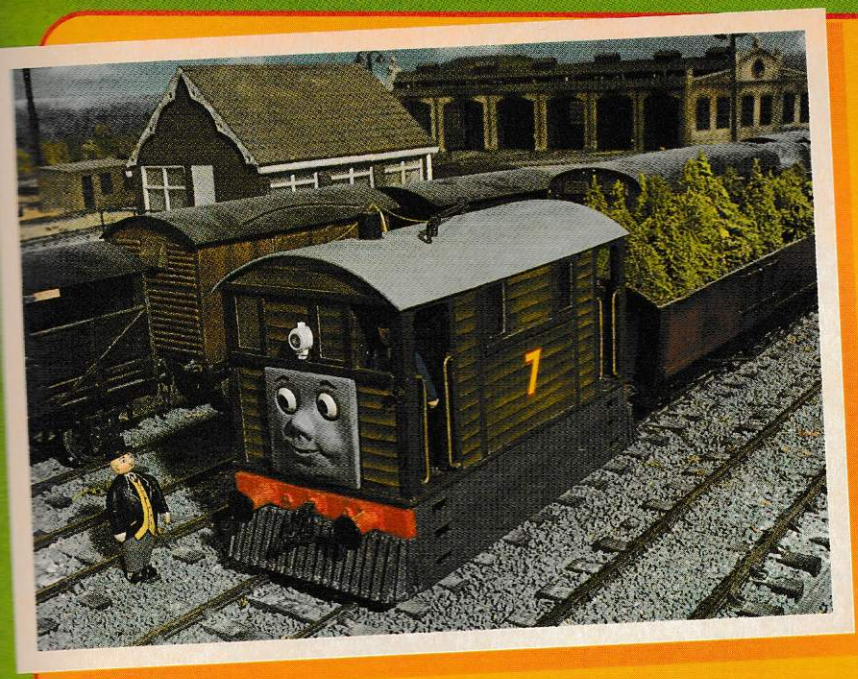
Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev W Awdry.

Henry, the Green Engine, has lived on the Island of Sodor for many years. He liked every part of it, but there was one place that Henry always enjoyed visiting more than any other. His driver knew this too and after a long day would take him to the forest. "It's peaceful," he said to Henry.



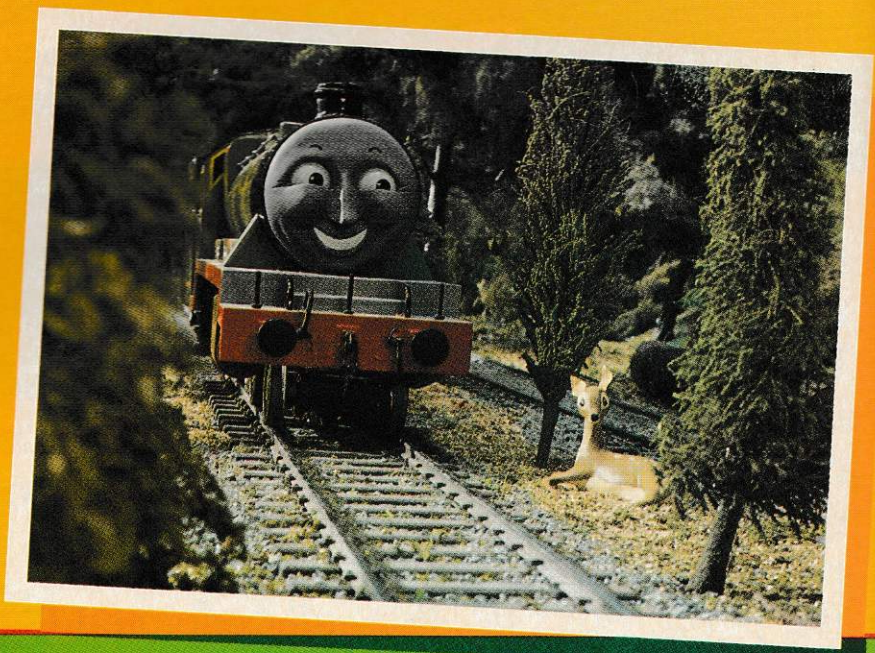
1 One night everything changed. The engines were resting in the shed. "Listen," said Thomas. "Can you hear a strange whistling sound?" "It's the wind blowing," replied Toby, "but I've never heard it like this before." "I hope the wind won't harm the forest!" said Henry.

2 By morning, the fierce winds had gone but the damage had been done. Trees lay everywhere. The hillside now looked so bare, and Henry felt sad. "What will happen to all the animals who live here?" he thought. "Oh dear!" sighed Toby. "I wish there was something we could do to make things better again."



3 Soon, the Fat Controller sent trucks full of splendid, young trees, all ready for planting, for Toby to take to the forest. "This is the best job I've ever had," said Toby, happily. When Henry returned, he was most surprised. Trevor and Terence were busily helping the workmen clear the stumps and plant new trees.

4 Now Henry can see the trees growing strong and tall, and the animals are coming back. Sometimes everywhere is quiet. At other times, Henry can hear leaves rustling. Often he can hear children laughing, and he is always happy here.



In Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends next time, you can read all about Gordon and the famous visitor!

Win a model of Henry!

Five lucky winners can win a splendid model of Henry from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/258 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

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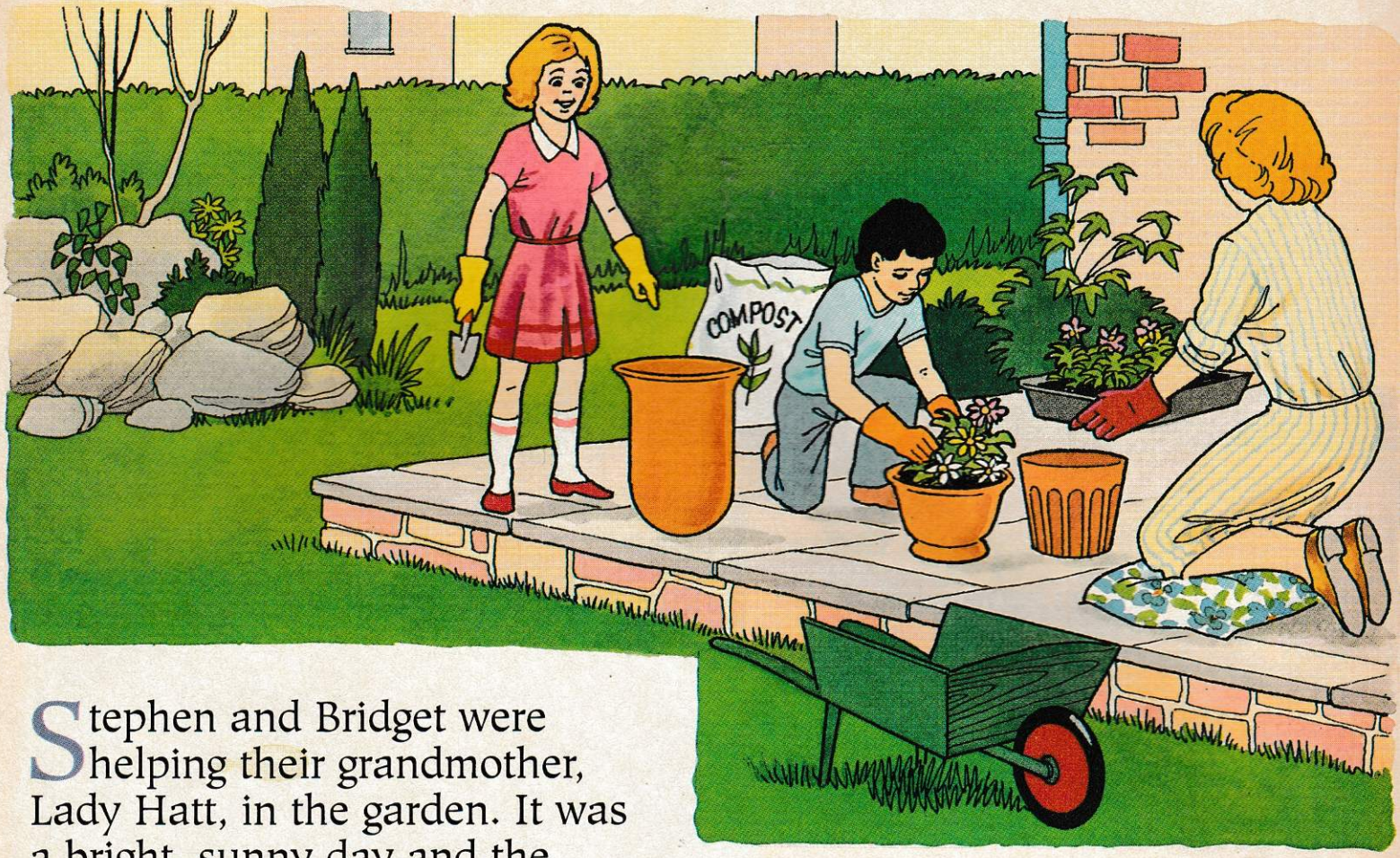
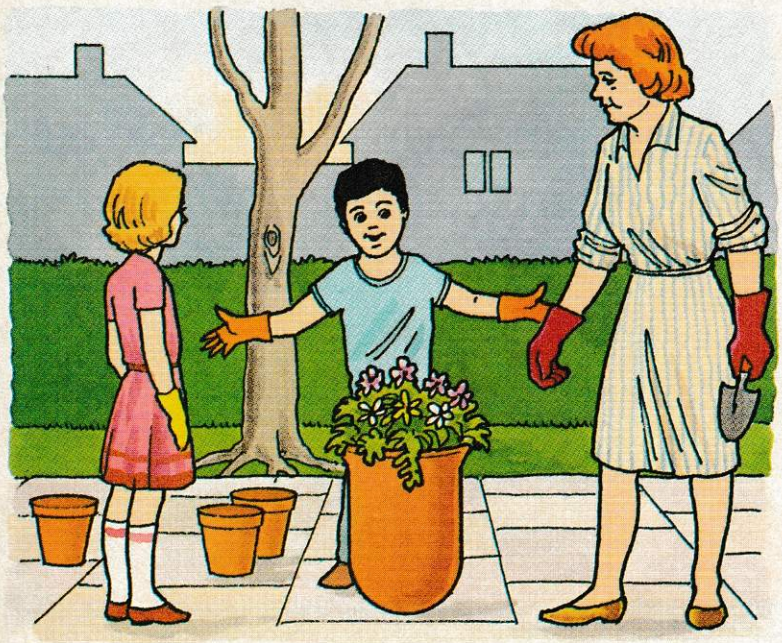
The Flower Dome!



Stephen and Bridget were helping their grandmother, Lady Hatt, in the garden. It was a bright, sunny day and the children were having a lovely time. Lady Hatt had some large pots that she wanted to put on the patio. But first, they all had to be filled with flowers.

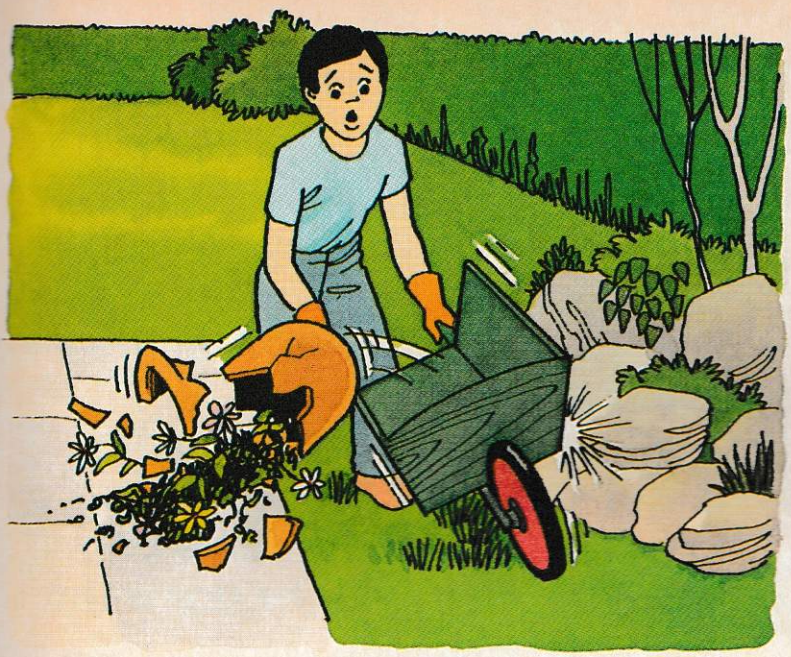
Stephen and Bridget carefully put special soil in the pots.



Earlier, the children and their grandmother had visited a garden centre to buy trays of small, young plants. Now all three busily began planting them to decorate the pots. At last, the work was done. "How colourful," smiled Lady Hatt. "You've done a great job children!"

Lady Hatt had chosen the largest pot to put by the porch at the front of the house. "I can carry it there in the wheelbarrow," said Stephen, helpfully.

Soon the pot was loaded aboard. Then he huffed and puffed playfully as he pushed the wheelbarrow along. "Peep! Peep!



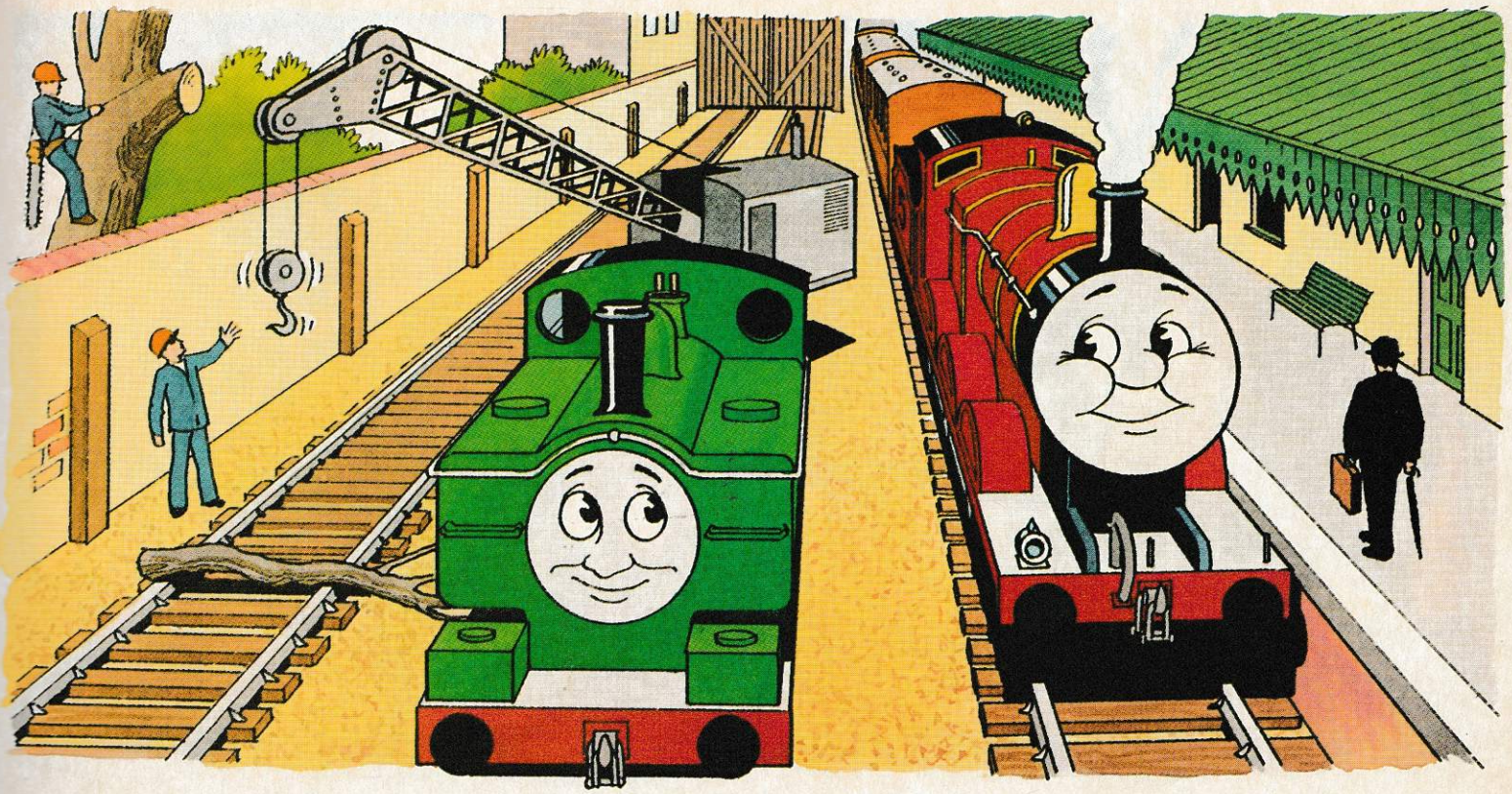
I'm moving freight, just like Thomas!" grinned Stephen.

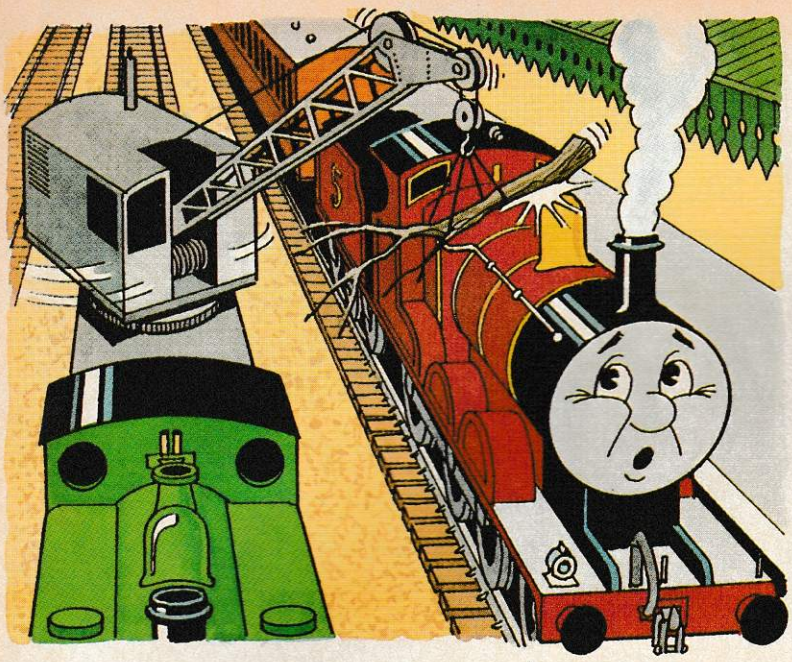
But, suddenly, the wheelbarrow bumped into the edge of the rockery. The pot toppled out. It fell on to the patio and broke into lots of pieces. Dirt and plants spilled everywhere. "Oh, no! Sorry," gasped Stephen. "Clumsy!" frowned Bridget. His grandmother wasn't cross at all. "Never mind, if we catch Thomas' afternoon passenger train, we can go and buy another pot," she said. "It's all my fault," sighed Stephen, who still felt quite bad.

A while later, they arrived at the Main Station. Thomas was queuing up behind James in the yard. "I'm such a splendid, smart engine, with my red paintwork and shiny dome, Duck, even if I say so myself!" sniffed James, importantly.

James was waiting to go past Duck. He was coupled to a crane truck. Duck had fetched it to move a big, dead branch that workmen had just cut down from a tree beside the yard. The Fat Controller had been worried that the branch would break and fall on somebody.

As the crane lifted the branch up, it swung towards James by mistake. "Look out!" he shouted in alarm. CLANG! Too late! The





branch hit James' dome and badly dented it. "I can't carry passengers, looking like this!" he fumed. His driver called for the Fat Controller immediately, who took James out of service.

While Duck took the branch away to be sawn up, Henry was sent for to pull James' carriages.

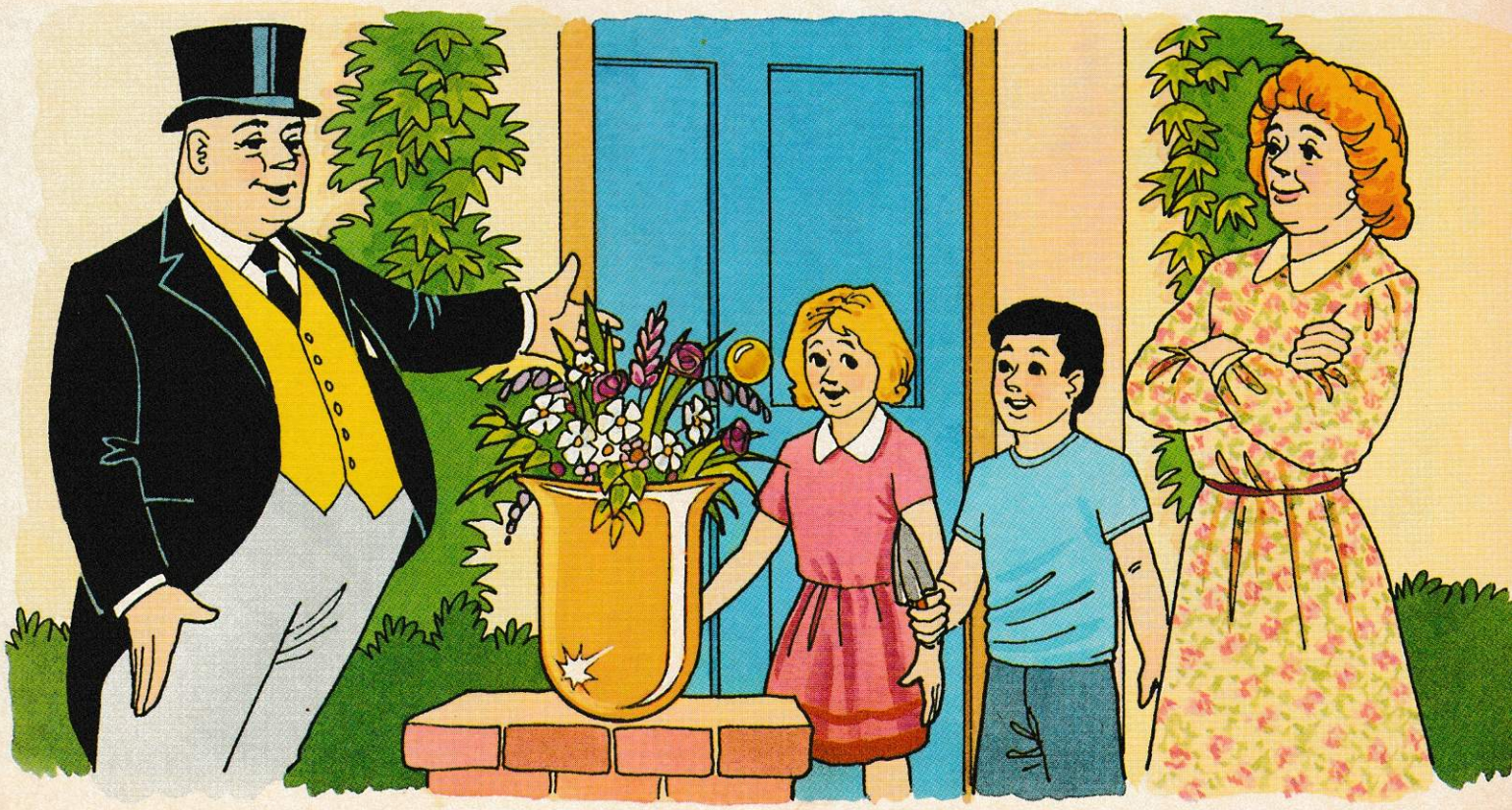
Meanwhile, James set off for the Works to have a brand-new dome fitted. "I'll be smarter than ever," he boasted.

During the commotion, Thomas, hiding a smirk, waited patiently. But seeing what had happened, Bridget had an idea. "There's no need to go and get another pot now," she said, then quickly explained.

The Fat Controller brought James' old dome home. He had knocked most of the dents out of it. Bridget polished the dome until the brass sparkled.

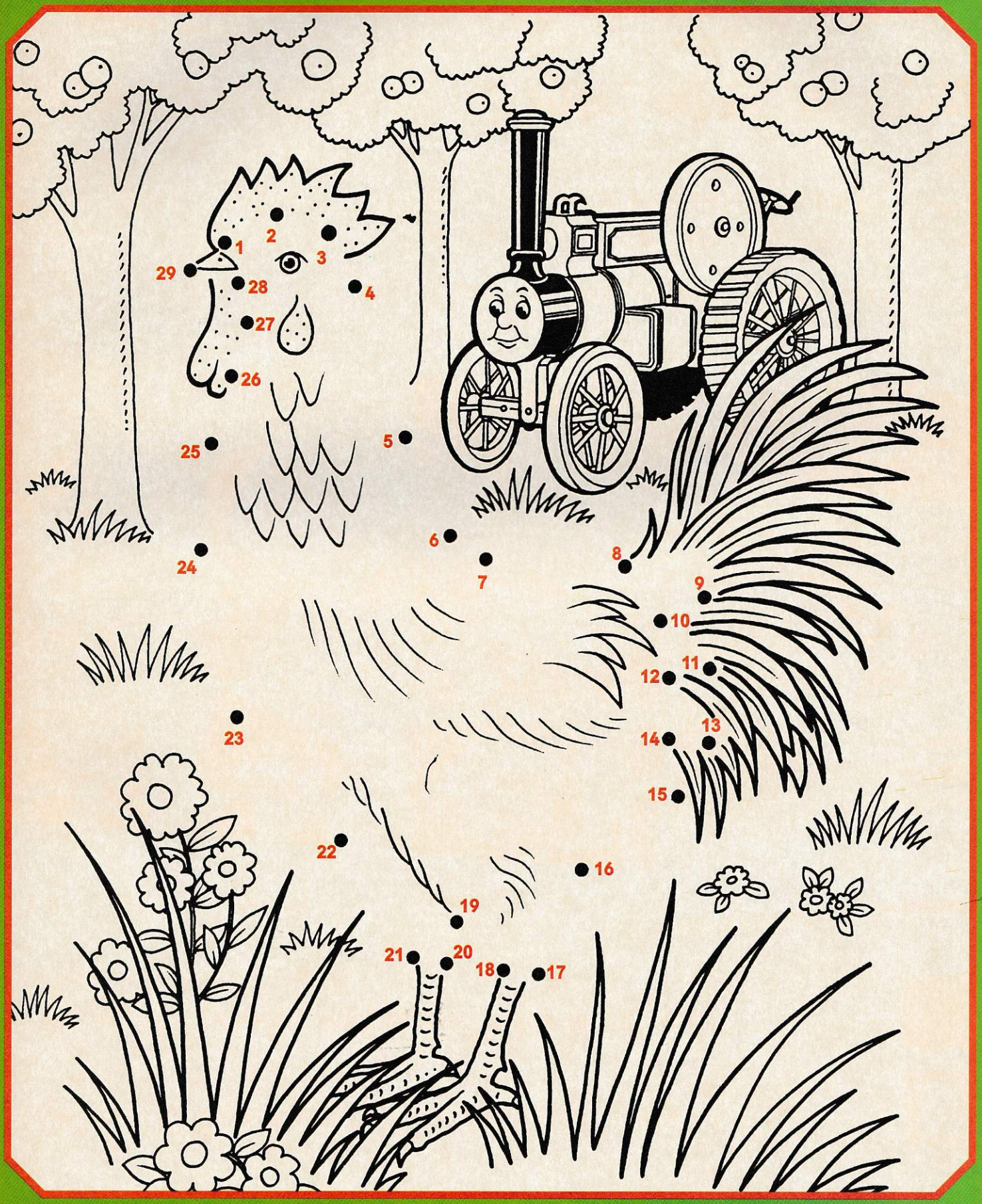
Before long, James' old dome stood upside-down by the porch, full of flowers. "That's even better than the pot I broke," said Stephen. "Clever Bridget! It makes a Really Useful flower pot," the Fat Controller and Lady Hatt told her. "You mean a flower *dome*!" laughed Bridget.

The End



Dot to dot!

Join the dots so you can see what animal is under the tree!



When you have finished colour this page!

BACK TO SCHOOL With Thomas!

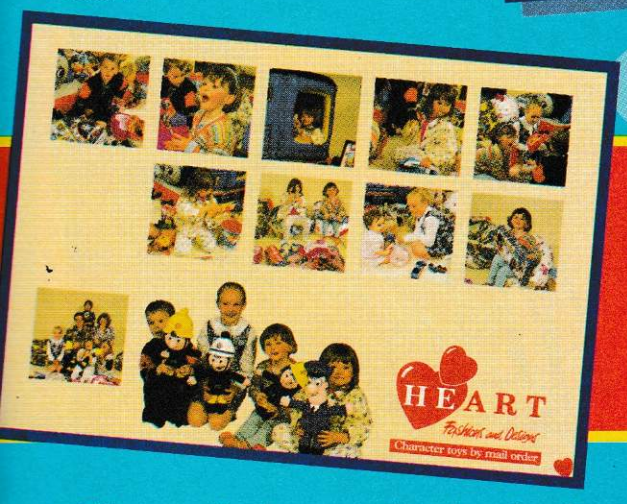
We've got 10 fantastic goodie bags to give away!

Each brilliant prize pack contains a lunch box & flask, a swimbag, a writing kit with pencils & a ruler, colouring pencils, a drawing book, a shoulder bag, a pencil case, and an eraser & some pens!

To win this smart school set just tell us: Which engine is named below?

OTBY

Send your answer, along with your name and address, to: Thomas/258 competition, Heart Fashions & Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR.



All entries must be received by 11th September 1997.

Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 150 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 258, or write to them at the competition address above.

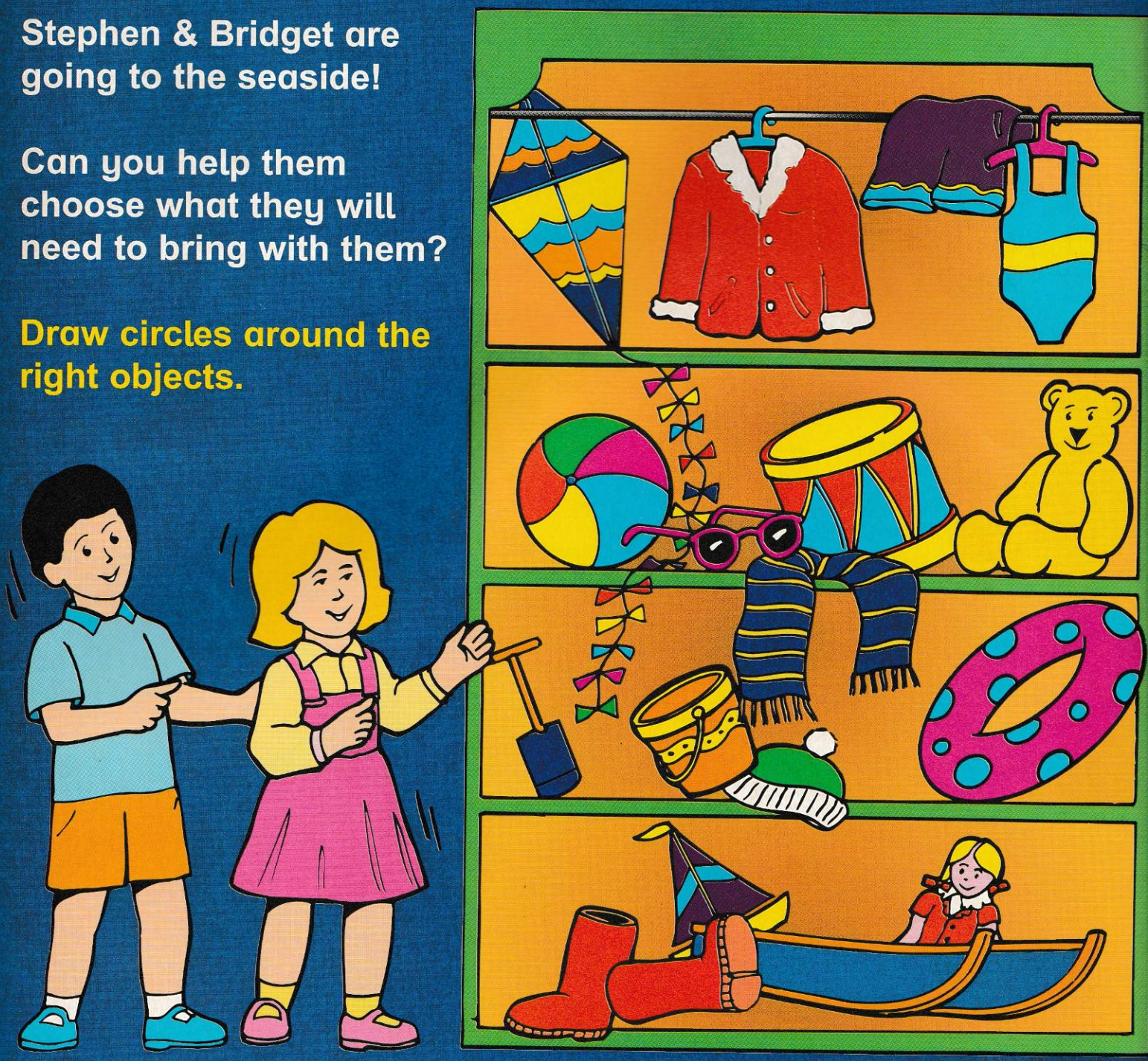
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

SEASIDE MUDDLE!

Stephen & Bridget are going to the seaside!

Can you help them choose what they will need to bring with them?

Draw circles around the right objects.



How many things will they bring altogether?

How many of these things can they wear?

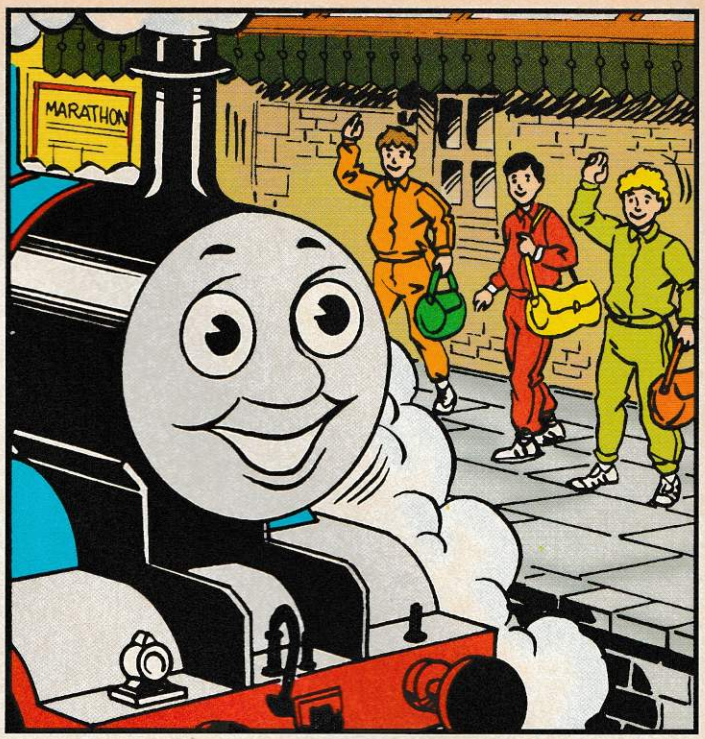
How many balls can you see?

Marathon Day!

1. One sunny, summer morning, the Fat Controller opened up the engine shed early. "Wakey, wakey! Who knows what day it is today?" he called to wake up the sleepy engines.

2. "It's Marathon Day!" peeped little Thomas who was the first to stir. "That's right Thomas!" said the Fat Controller, "and it's going to be a very busy day for all of us!" he warned.

3. The race's start was on the far side of the island so Gordon's express did a special trip over there for all the runners. "All aboard for the Marathon Express!" called the station master.



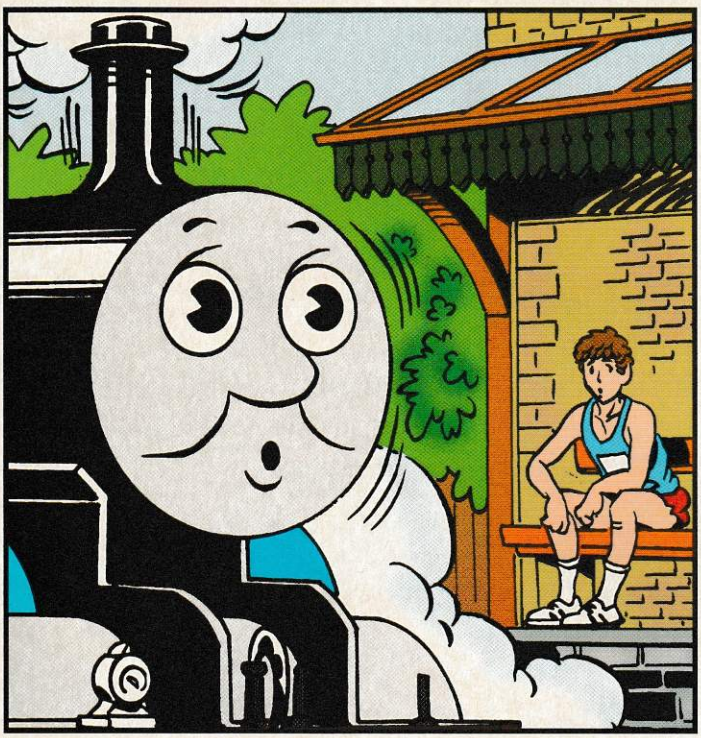
4. The people going to watch the race were travelling on the other engines. "Come with me for the best views of the Marathon race!" peeped Thomas. The Main Station was packed!

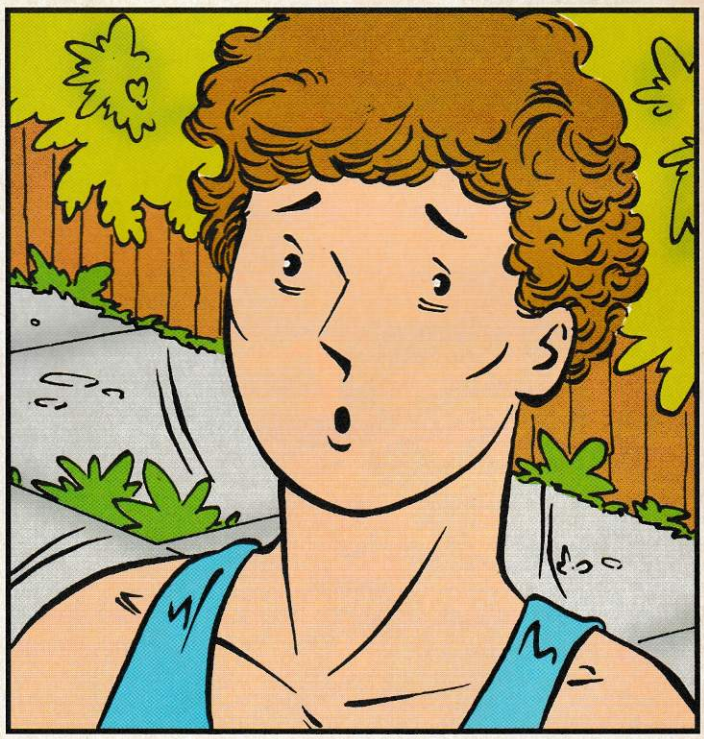
5. The race had started and Thomas approached a level-crossing. "Look, some runners at the barrier!" he whistled. "Move it slow-coach, there's a race on!" shouted one cheeky runner.

6. "There's work to be done too!" puffed Thomas, "so you can just jolly well run on the spot until I'm gone!" The driver grinned, "Come on Thomas we're holding up the big race!"

7. Thomas was still fuming when, later on, he crossed paths with Gordon. "What do you think of these runners, Gordon?" he whistled. "I'm finding them too big for their trainers!"

8. Gordon grinned at him. "Calm down Thomas, it is their special day. And I heard that you held up the race at the level crossing!" "It couldn't be helped," Thomas steamed, as he pulled away.



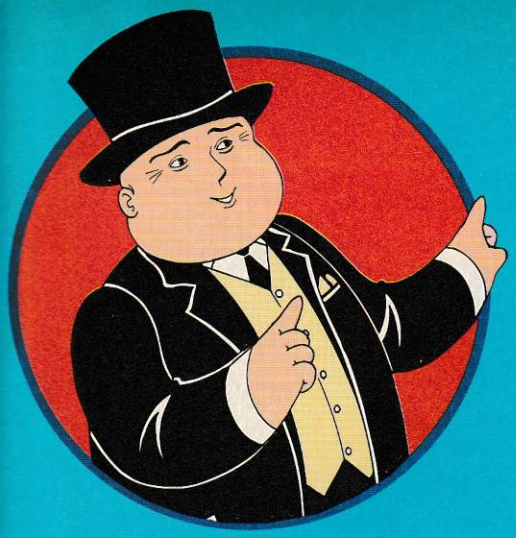


9. Further up the line, Thomas saw a man in running kit sitting on a bench at a station. Thomas recognised the man from the level-crossing! "Looks like someone needs a rest!" he puffed.

10. The weary man said to the driver, "I can't run another step, I'll have to finish by train!" he gasped. "What's all the fuss, us engines do marathons every day!" called Thomas, cheekily.

11. "Twenty-six miles is a very long way for a person, Thomas!" his driver explained, as they pulled into Wellsworth, where the race ended. Some people were waiting. "Well done Thomas, we thought we'd lost our friend!" shouted one of them, when the runner got off. Then the runner walked along the platform to talk to Thomas, "I'm sorry I was rude to you at the level-crossing!" he said.

12. "I get excited and try too hard at the start of marathons!" continued the runner. Thomas smiled. "That's okay!" he whistled, "but remember, us engines keep going all day. We don't set off too fast and then run out of steam! That's no good!" "I can't argue with that!" smiled the runner. The driver laughed, "I'm sorry, Sir, but you were cheeky to the cheekiest engine on the whole railway!"



The m

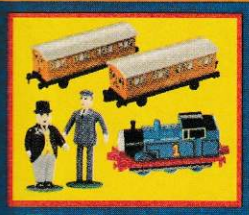
Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
How did Sir Handel become a Sir?

From Robin Browning, aged 7.

Sir Handel was named in honour of Sir Handel Brown, the owner of the Skarloey Railway. He used to be called Falcon, but he likes his new name much better!



If we print you're STAR LETTER, you will receive a Fat Controller, a Porter, Thomas & Annie and Clarabel as a prize!

Thanks to Daniel Tyminski, aged 6, for sending in this brilliant picture of Duke!

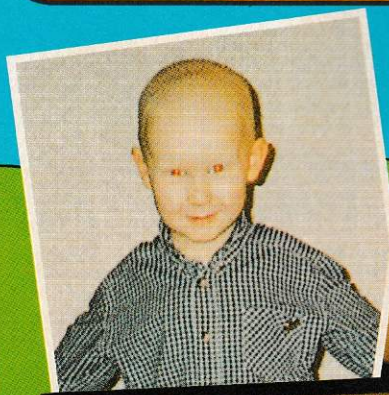
Prize Poem!

This great little poem is by 6 year old Reginald Kinch, who will win a special prize!

I would like to go on Harold
and travel in the sky,
and look down at
all the trains,
as they go passing by!

Happy Birthday

TO: Daniel Edmond, aged 6,
Alexander McDonald, aged 4,
Isabel & Adam Hollyoake,
Christopher Wilkins, aged 3,
Trevor Holdcroft, aged 6,
Sam Parton, aged 3,
Reiss Sadler, aged 4 &
Kyle Lake, aged 3!

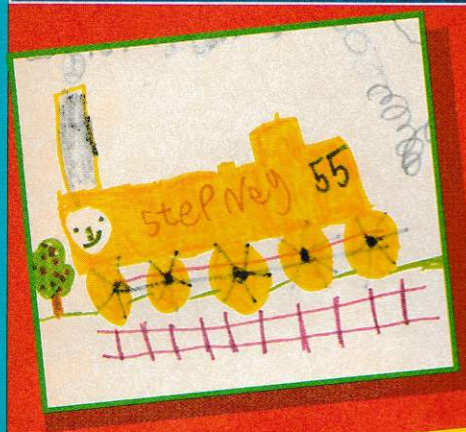


Joshua Dunn, aged 3!

Elliot Wright, aged 3!

ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers.



John Gregson, aged 6, sent in this brightly coloured picture of Stepney!

7 year old Ben Campbell has drawn a picture of Trevor resting beneath a tree, in the Vicarage Orchard!

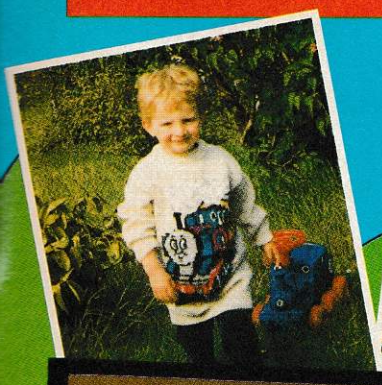
Percy's Jokes!

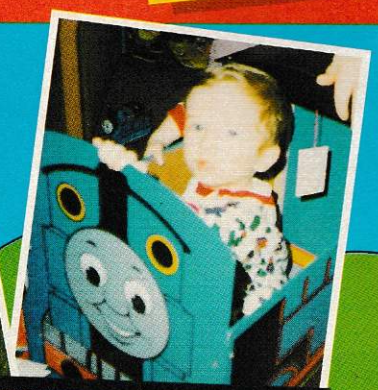
Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

What's bad-tempered and goes with custard?
Apple grumble!
Daniel Jones, aged 5 ½!

What do you call a camel with three humps?
Humphrey!
Elliot Brook-Jones, aged 6!

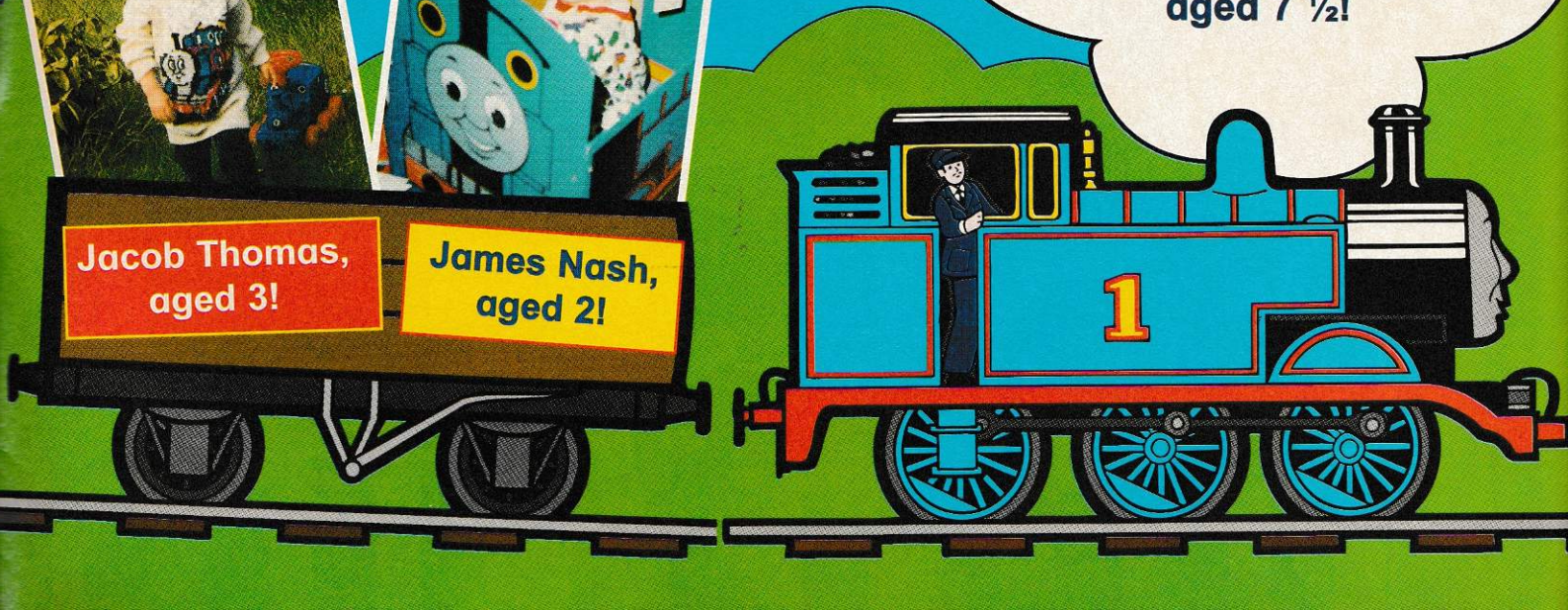
Why did the teacher wear dark glasses?
Because her class was so bright!
Paula-Jane Murphy, aged 7 ½!

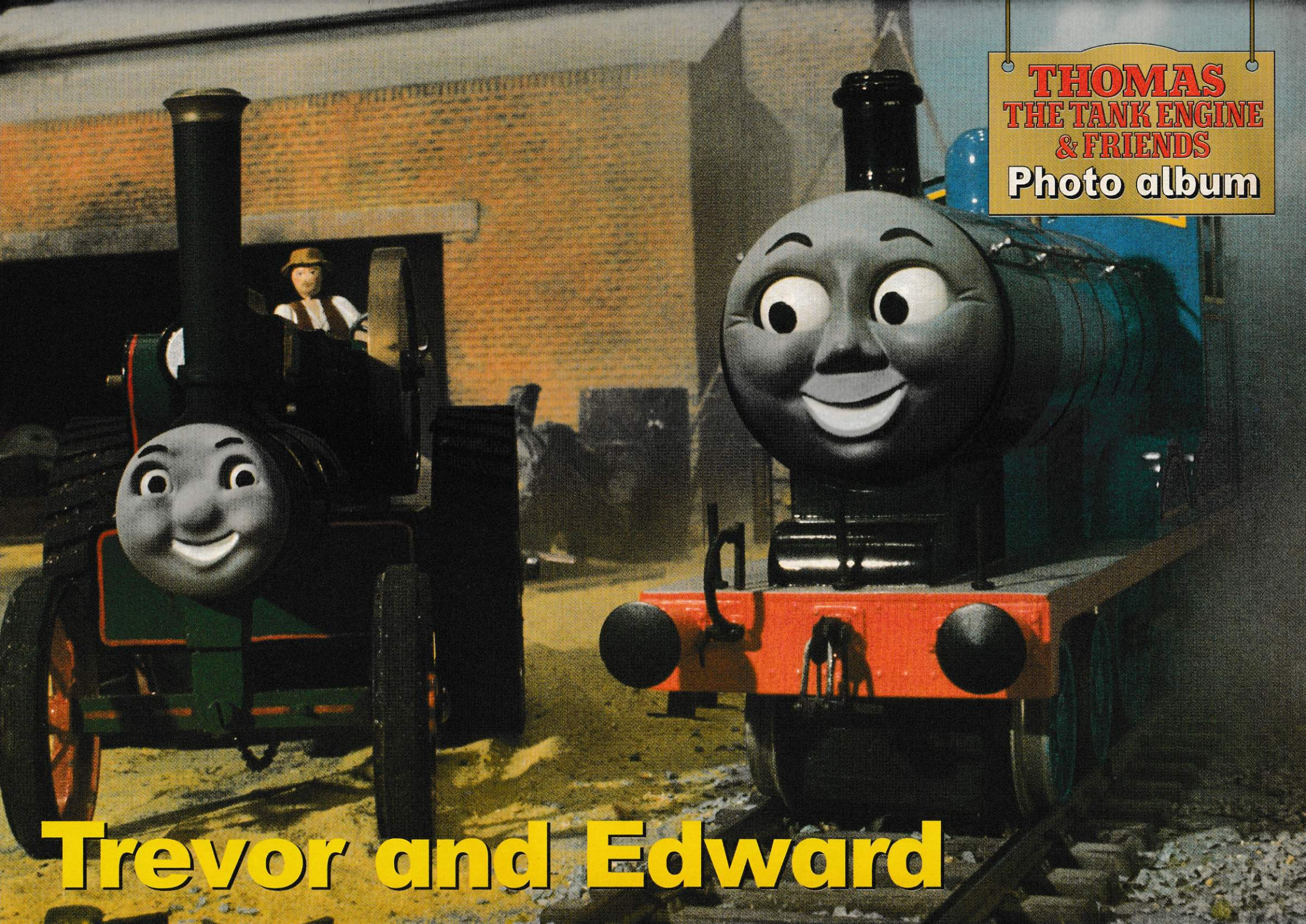




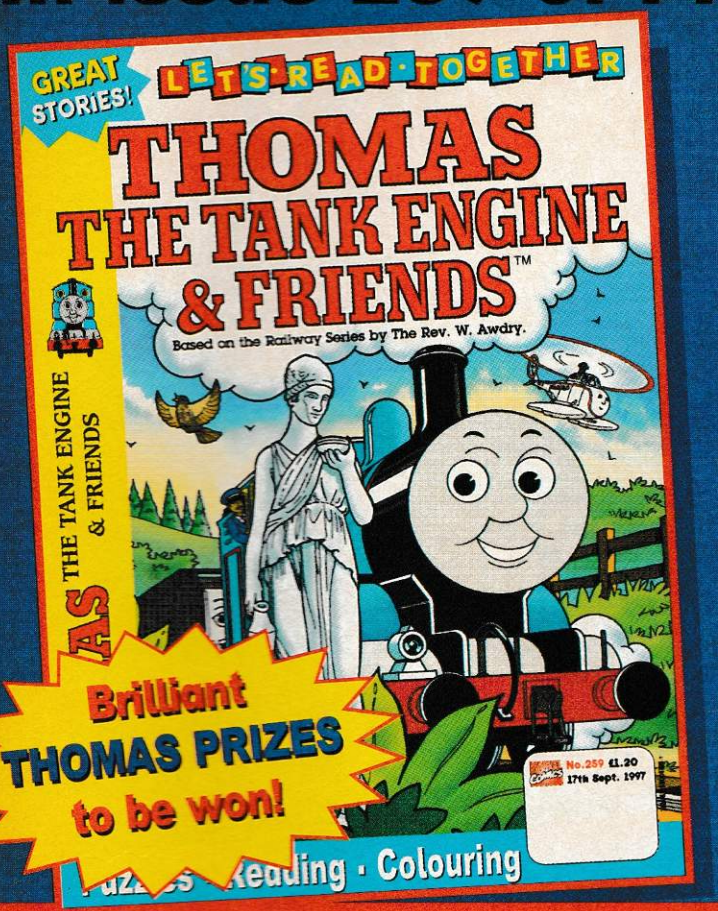
Jacob Thomas, aged 3!

James Nash, aged 2!




THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
Trevor and Edward

In issue 259 of . . .



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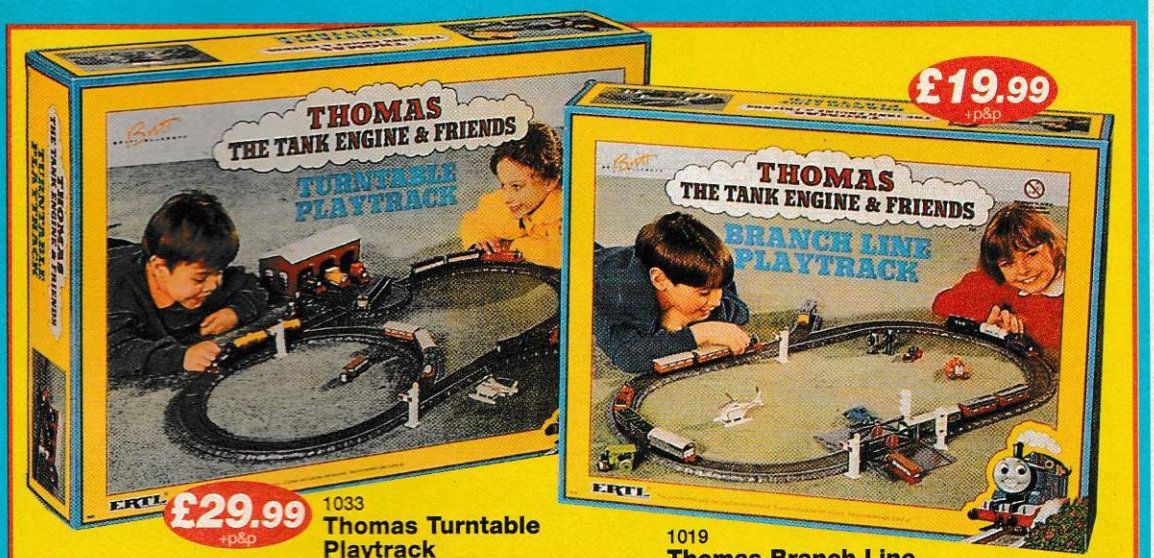

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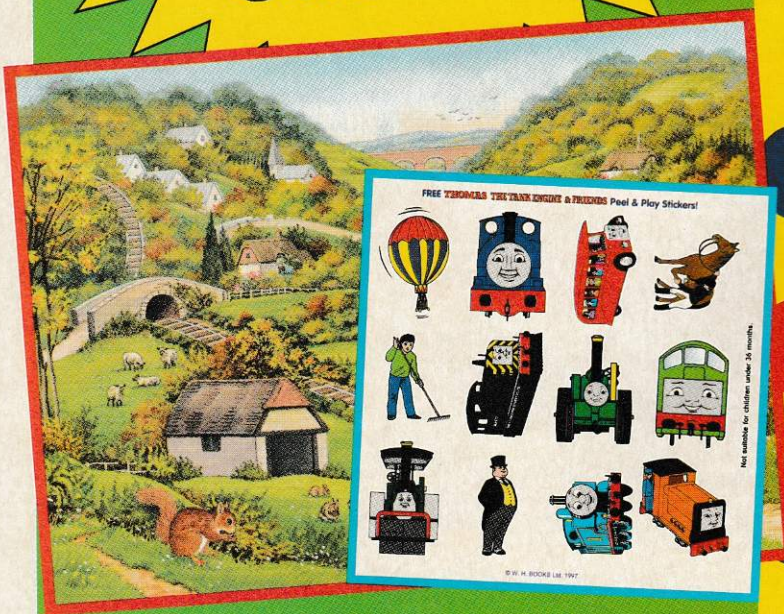

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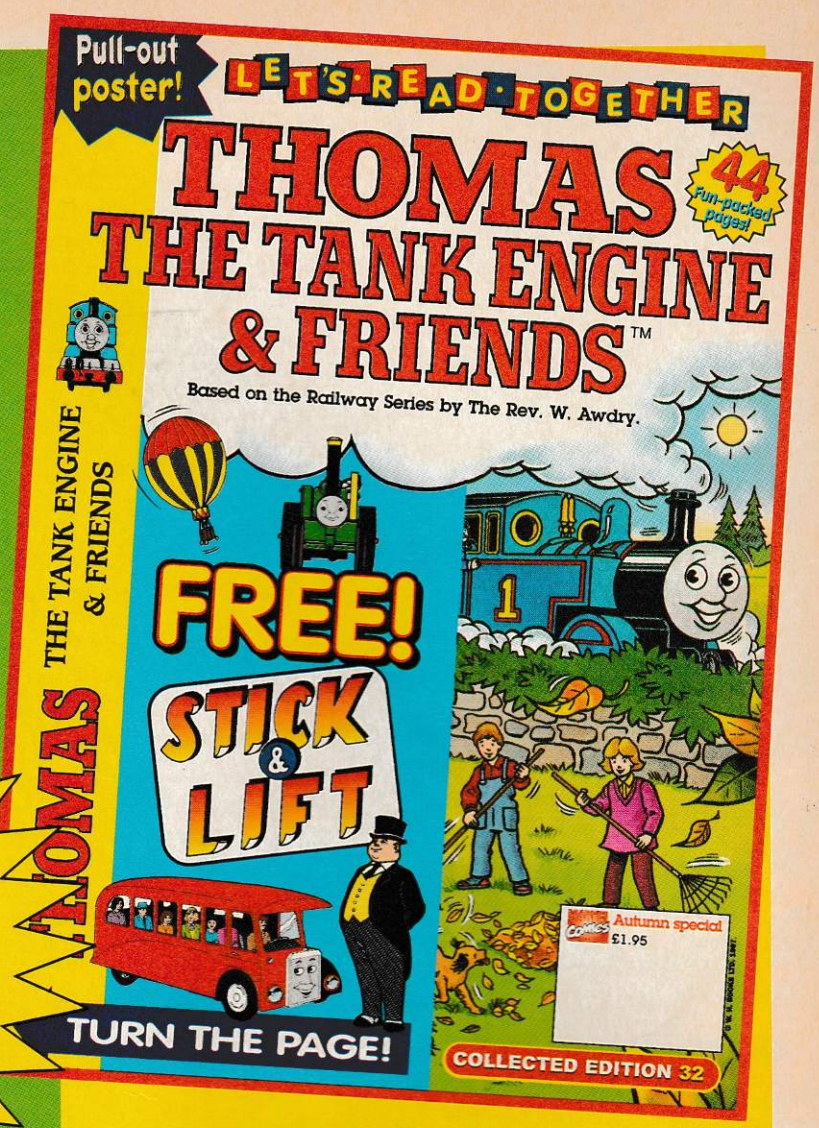

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